

## **Inclement Weather and Transportation of Students**

### **Procedures**

1. In the case of inclement weather conditions, the busing contractor in consultation with the bus driver shall make a decision in regard to whether or not it will be safe to transport students. When a bus driver decides not to operate, s/he will contact, by no later than 6:15 a.m. the Supervisor of Transportation and Custodians. Bus drivers are responsible for ensuring that all students are informed when buses will not operate due to the inclement weather.
2. Where all bus drivers in a particular zone have communicated with one another through a phone fan out system and determined not to run to a particular school or schools because of inclement weather, a designated individual will communicate this information immediately to the school Principal, the Supervisor of Transportation and Custodians, who will then communicate the information to the Superintendent or designate.
3. Normally, schools will remain open for those students who are able to attend. However, safety shall be the overwhelming concern in these situations; the Board of Trustees will support the decision of parents who choose not to send their child to school because of safety concerns.
4. In extreme weather conditions when buses are not running, the principal, in consultation with other principals in the attendance area, may recommend to the Superintendent to close the school(s). Provision shall always be made for a staff member to be at school at opening time to ensure the safety of any students who arrive at school unaware of the school closure.
5. In cases where weather conditions deteriorate after the students have been transported to school, no school bus shall transport students home until after the regular dismissal time.
6. If the conditions are such that it is not safe for the buses to take the rural students home, it will be the responsibility of the principal and the staff to use their school's communication plan to alert parents to the situation and, where necessary, to arrange for local billeting of students or for their accommodation at the school.
7. In the event of a school plant emergency a school closure may take effect. The Principal in will consult the Superintendent, who will make this decision.
8. Each principal shall have in place and use a communication plan to inform parents, students and school staff members in the event of a school closure. Communication plans should include a provision for a fan out system to contact parents and students, including those not normally transported by school bus. In addition, the communication plan should describe a process for ensuring that public service messages about school closure are broadcast on local radio stations.

School Act 1988 cS3,1, s41