

WINTER WEATHER

Background

Student safety shall be the primary concern that determines actions taken as a result of cold or inclement winter weather.

School operational procedures and expectations regarding staff and student attendance during severe winter weather must be clarified.

Procedures

1. Schools shall not be closed because of cold or inclement weather.
2. The decision to keep a student at home for the day because of winter weather conditions shall be made by the parents.
3. School bus service will not be cancelled because of cold weather.
 - 3.1. Students shall not be expected to wait for a school bus for more than fifteen minutes past the scheduled pick-up time. If the bus has not arrived by that time, students should return to their homes or to another prearranged place of shelter.
4. Notwithstanding Procedure 1, school closures may be required for reasons other than winter weather. See [BC Ministry of Education Emergency Management Planning for Schools, Districts and Authority and Guide](#).
5. On days when student attendance is reduced substantially because of cold or inclement weather conditions or because travel is considered treacherous, regular scheduled instruction may be modified for those students who attend school.
6. In advance of the cold weather months, schools should consult with parents and clearly communicate to parents what educational alternatives the school will offer in the event of low attendance caused by excessively cold weather.
7. Temperature alone does not warrant an “in day” although the guideline that has been used for quite some time has been (-20). Taking into consideration the many factors of inclement weather such as wind, rain, particulate matter, snow and temperature, the Principal shall make the decision as to keeping the students indoors. Safety of the students is always a priority.
8. Individual bus runs may be cancelled for the day (morning and afternoon runs) because of dangerous road conditions. Cancellations will be posted on the contracted transportation providers notification and service alert system as soon as possible after the providers decision to cancel a run is made.

Administrative Procedure 132

9. Employees will report to their worksite as scheduled. Employees that are unable to attend their worksite must contact their principal or supervisor for further instructions.
10. Principals will ensure that parents are informed about Procedures 1 through 3 each fall and periodically through the winter months.

Reference: *School Act, Sections 73 and 85*