



EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

POLICY #: F-17

AUTHORITY: 99-106/07-27/09-97

POLICY STATEMENT

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board is committed to having our Catholic schools open each day of the school year. Recognizing that emergencies such as inclement weather conditions or the breakdown of essential services can occur, the safety of our students and staff members shall be the prime consideration when decisions are made. In order to accelerate communication with those concerned in the operation of schools and buses, the Director of Education or designate is authorized to close schools or classes for a temporary period or to approve early dismissal because of failure of transportation arrangements, inclement weather, and breakdown of essential services in accordance of the Education Act and Regulations.

DEFINITIONS

Inclement Weather Days:

An Inclement Weather Day is defined as a day where road or weather conditions make it impossible to operate a school bus safely. In situations where buses are cancelled due to inclement weather affecting road conditions, the day shall be designated an Inclement Weather Day. Inclement Weather Days do not result in Emergency School Closure Days unless the conditions meet the emergency school closure day criteria as well.

Emergency School Closure Days:

An Emergency School Closure Day is a partial or full day designated as an emergency due to the breakdown in essential services (such as hydro, heat and/or water) or other conditions whereby the safety of students and staff would be compromised. An emergency conditions designation may be given to an individual school, a group of schools, all schools and/or Board administrative building depending on the circumstances of the emergency.

POLICY REGULATIONS

1. Inclement Weather Days

- 1.1 The Northeastern Catholic District School Board recognizes there will be occasions when inclement weather conditions will cause student transportation services to be disrupted. Decisions to cancel student transportation services shall be made in the best interests of student safety.
- 1.2 The Director of Education or designate and the Tri-Board Supervisor of Transportation Services as per the Tri-Board Joint Transportation Agreement have

the responsibility for decisions pertaining to cancelling student transportation due to inclement weather conditions.

- 1.3 Due to the geographic size and diversity of the Board's jurisdiction, it is recognized there may be varying weather patterns, which may necessitate the cancellation of student transportation services in one or more communities served by our Board or to one or more specific schools rather than on a system-wide basis.

2. Emergency School Closure Days

- 2.1 The Board recognizes there will be times when schools will have to be closed for a temporary period.
- 2.2 Based on the nature of the emergency, schools may be closed for a temporary period on an individual, group or system-wide basis.
- 2.3 Decisions regarding emergency school closing of a school or schools shall be made in the interest of our students' and staff members' safety.

POLICY DIRECTIVES

1. Inclement Weather Days

- 1.1 The Tri-Board Supervisor of Transportation Services in consultation with the Director of Education or designate shall have responsibility for decisions cancelling student transportation due to inclement weather.
- 1.2 Decisions to cancel student transportation services due to inclement weather shall be made in the best interests of student safety.
- 1.3 Decisions affecting the cancellation of student transportation shall be communicated to parents/guardians and students by means of local and area radio stations and the Board's website (www.ncdsb.on.ca) in a timely manner.
- 1.4 If student transportation services are cancelled in the morning, afternoon transportation will also be cancelled.
- 1.5 When a decision is made to cancel student transportation services, schools shall remain open for students unless otherwise determined through Emergency School Closure criteria.

2. Emergency School Closure Days

- 2.1 Each school shall have an Emergency School Closing Plan.
- 2.2 Emergency school closure plans shall include plans to inform parents/guardians of the emergency school closing procedures as may be feasible in the circumstances.

3. Reference Documents

- 3.1 The Education Act
- 3.2 Board Procedures: #F-17P Emergency School Closure/Inclement Weather