

COLD AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Background

From time to time student bus transportation may be hampered by inclement weather conditions and measures shall be taken to ensure safe student transportation during cold and inclement weather conditions.

Procedures

1. Buses will be equipped with emergency supplies.

Bus cancellations due to Temperature

2. Buses will not operate in the morning when the temperature at 6:00 a.m. is minus thirty-five degrees Celsius (- 35°C) (without the wind chill) or lower; or minus forty-eight degrees Celsius (-48°C) with wind chill or lower at a Key Weather Station Location, The Transportation Manager or designate will cancel school bus routes in that school attendance area. (See Environment Canada Wind chill Hazards chart.) . This will include scheduled field trips and bussing for sporting events. The decision for the PM portion of the route will be decided using the same criteria as the AM. When a regular school bus route is cancelled by the Transportation Manager or designate because of temperature or other weather-related issues in a school attendance area, the school bus driver, if available and able to drive will be paid as if they drove the cancelled route.

- 2.1 Due to the inherent risk of mechanical failure wheelchair lifts will not be operated when temperatures reach minus twenty-five degrees Celsius (-25°C) or lower. After consultation with the Transportation Manager or designate the driver of the wheelchair unit will inform the parents of the cancellation.

- 3.

School attendance area	Key Weather Station Location
Cleardale attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Worsley attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Hines Creek attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Fairview attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Grimshaw attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Dixonville attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data

Manning attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Peace River attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Nampa attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data
Red Earth attendance area	Weather Network or ACIS AB Weather Station Data

4. Should cancellation of bus services occur, the Transportation Manager or designate shall post announcements of bus cancellations on Bus Planner. Each bus driver shall notify their route parents of bus service cancellation.

4.1 The Transportation Manager or designate may cancel buses either individually or collectively when weather/road conditions constitute a safety risk to the students being transported this will include all scheduled Field Trips.

5. The individual bus driver, after making a reasonable attempt and advising the Transportation Manager is granted discretionary power to cancel or alter his/her route to ensure the safety of students being transported. Each bus driver shall notify their route parents of bus service cancellation. If a route is cancelled by the bus driver because of temperature and the recorded temperature on the weather network in the school attendance area serviced by the route has not reached the minimum as set out in paragraph 2, the driver may not be paid for the cancelled route.

If extreme weather conditions arise after the students have been delivered to their schools, the Transportation Manager or designate may authorize bus drivers to pick up students early and deliver them home. In some extreme conditions the bus routes may be cancelled, and busses will not be sent to the schools in the afternoon.

5.1 In such cases the Transportation Manager shall notify the Principal of the school(s) involved of this decision.

5.2 The Principal will notify parents and not allow any elementary students on the bus if the parents have not been contacted.

5.3 The bus driver will take all reasonable safeguards to ensure that the students are delivered safely to their parents or to neighbors closest to their homes.

5.4 If it is unsafe for busses to be on the road the Principal will advise parents of the situation and hold students at the school until picked up by a parent.

6. The Transportation Manager shall ensure that an established monitoring system is in place to initiate a follow-up action if a bus is overdue on their route during cold and stormy weather conditions.

Adopted/Revised/Reviewed: JUN 2016/SEPT 2018/NOV 2019/SEP 2022/JUL 2023
Reference: Section 11, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Employment Standards Code