

SUSPENSION OF CLASSES BECAUSE OF WEATHER OR OTHER CAUSES

Background

The safety of students and staff during periods of inclement weather or when other hazards arise is of paramount importance to the District.

The District will:

- Endeavour to keep all schools in the District open and in session on all prescribed school days provided that safety can be ensured for students and staff.
- Assess each occurrence of inclement weather or of a hazardous situation as it occurs, and initiate the appropriate actions to provide the safest conditions for students and staff.

Procedures

1. The Superintendent shall make the final decision regarding suspension of classes.
2. When buses are cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, the Director of Facilities shall make all announcements including cancellation of bus transportation.
 - 2.1 Announcements will be made over local media. The District website will be updated as quickly as possible.
 - 2.2 Whenever possible these media announcements will be made early enough in the day to allow students to remain at home.
 - 2.3 Cancellation of a bus run does not mean that schools are closed.
 - 2.4 When buses are cancelled, teaching and support staff employees, principals, vice principals and excluded staff are expected to make every reasonable effort to attend their place of work. If because of hazards, it is not possible for staff members to report to their work sites, they shall contact their immediate supervisor for further instructions. If their supervisor is unavailable, they will contact the District Office. Employees may elect to take a leave without pay or discretionary day as per their collective agreement.
3. Principals shall encourage parents to exercise their prerogative to keep their children at home should the weather present unusual hazards. This message shall be presented in regular newsletters and through school social media and websites at suitable intervals throughout the year.
4. Wherever possible, the Superintendent will provide a news release to local media and to each school to inform parents, students and staff of the District's plan for the following day, giving

parents more time to make alternate arrangements for their children.

5. At the discretion of the Superintendent, students and staff members may be released prior to dismissal time due to weather or other hazards, such as electrical, water or heating failures.

5.1 Dismissal will be based on information obtained by the Principal, including heating/temperature conditions, light availability in washroom and work areas, recovery time estimated by Fortis or Director of Facilities, student age and general safety factors.

5.2 Principals and school staff will establish a protocol for the safe release and supervision of children during the school day.

6. Principals will advise parents of the suspension of classes procedure and, early in the school year, obtain from parents, alternate locations where their children will be supervised in the event of an unexpected suspension of classes and written directions regarding the release of their children.

Reference: Section 20, 22, 65, 73, 85, 90 School Act
School Regulation 265/89

Adopted: November 2019
Revised: