



POLICY TITLE:

Inclement Weather

Board Approval: January 23, 2019

Board Review: March 28, 2023

Background

Summit West Independent School (SWIS) is responsible for ensuring that each of its students is provided with an education program consistent with the requirements of the school; therefore, schools shall remain open to students during the times and dates established in school calendar(s). The Division may, however, temporarily suspend school bus services and close a school building if the health and safety of students and staff are endangered.

Procedures

1. School bus service may be suspended by the Principal, in consultation with the school bus drivers, when at 6:00 a.m., Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 degrees centigrade (with or without wind chill factor).
2. School bus services may also be suspended or delayed by the Principal, in consultation with the bus drivers, when visibility is poor due to blowing snow, fog, etc..
3. The principal shall take into account the RCMP travel advisories and weather warnings issued by Environment Canada when making the decision to cancel transportation.
4. The Principal, in consultation with the bus drivers shall make a decision regarding school bus suspension by 6:30 a.m. (or the previous night if conditions make it obvious that service will be suspended the following day).

5. When school bus services are suspended by the Principal, the school shall remain open to students and, if possible, before/after school care services.
6. If unsafe road conditions occur, the principal, in consultation with the bus drivers, has the discretionary power to decide not to operate or to abandon completion of the morning route by returning students to their homes. Bus drivers must ensure students are in the care of parents or guardians prior to departing a bus stop.
7. When weather or road conditions deteriorate during the day, the student transportation organization may authorize school buses to leave school prior to regular dismissal time.
8. The Principal, staff, and school bus operators shall take steps to ensure students arrive home safely when they are dismissed earlier. This includes attempts to contact parents/guardians/emergency contacts to ensure students have adequate access to residences. If a child cannot be dropped off at the agreed upon location, a parent will be notified. If parents cannot be contacted, the student will remain on the bus until the end of the route. If there is still not contact by the end of the route, the student will be returned to the school and kept in after school care. This is at the discretion of the bus driver with communication with Principal.
9. Bus drivers are to hold themselves in readiness for service in cases of pending extreme conditions.
10. Parents and school bus drivers shall be advised annually of the procedures used for the suspension of school bus service.

Communication

11. The Principal and/or Administrative Team shall contact all parents and bus drivers by phone to announce any suspension of bus service.
12. The Principal and/or Administrative Team shall update the bus status notice on the Summit West Independent School website and FaceBook accounts.

Parent and Student

15. For the safety of students, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure:
 1. their children are suitably dressed for weather conditions.

2. arrangements have been made for alternate shelter for their child if no one is home.
16. On days when school bus services are suspended due to inclement weather or hazardous road conditions, parents who have brought their children to school will be responsible for picking up their children.
17. On scheduled diploma examination dates, students who arrive at school shall be allowed to write the examination.

Staff

18. Staff members are expected to report to work, even when bus service is suspended.
19. In the event that road and/or weather conditions are extreme, the Principal may authorize that staff are not to report to work. For safety purposes, the Principal shall ensure some staff are at the school to temporarily accommodate students who report to school.