



WINTER WEATHER

APPROVED: 1982.12.14

REVISED: 1991.10.29

1994.12.06

1996.06.11

1999.01.26

2008.09.23

2018.XX.XX

POLICY

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

It is the Policy of School District No. 57 (Prince George) to maintain open schools on all designated student instructional days in the interests of student safety and community expectations.

DEFINITIONS:

“Extreme Weather” refers to dangerous meteorological phenomena with the potential to cause serious damage, widespread social disruption or loss of life.

Responsibility Centre: Assistant Superintendents

References: *School Act*, Sections 73 and 85



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PREAMBLE

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

Approved: 1999.01.26

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REGULATIONS:

- 1) Schools shall not be closed because of cold or inclement weather. In the case of extreme weather conditions, Policy 6114 Emergency Situations in Schools may apply.
- 2) 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. The administrative procedures of this policy provide assistance to the principal and teachers in determining the educational program that will be offered.
- 3) School bus service will not be cancelled because of cold weather.
- 4) Individual bus runs may be cancelled for the day (morning and afternoon runs) because of dangerous road conditions. Cancellations will be announced on local radio as soon as possible after the decision to cancel a run is made.
- 5) The decision to keep a student at home for the day because of winter weather conditions shall be made by the parents.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Notwithstanding Regulation 1, school closures may be required for reasons other than winter weather. See Policy 6114 (Emergency Situations in Schools).
- 8) School district staff are expected to attend school on their scheduled work days. However, if a staff member determines that it is unsafe or they are unable to travel to work because of weather or road conditions, a discretionary day, vacation or leave without pay will be granted, as applicable, in accordance with the relevant collective agreement.
 - a) While staff are expected to make every reasonable effort to travel to work, they are not expected to place themselves at undue risk in attempting to do so. Staff members who have determined that it is unsafe or are unable to travel to school/work because of road conditions must inform their principal/supervisor at the earliest time possible.
 - b) Staff members who have determined that it is not possible to attend their regular work place due to extreme weather may choose to report to a School District No. 57 workplace where travel to this site is viable. This decision must be reported to their principal/supervisor at the earliest possible time. The employee attending an alternate site must report to the site principal/supervisor immediately upon arrival.



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- 9) Principals will ensure that parents are informed about Regulations 1 through 6 each fall and periodically through the winter months.
- 10) Travel assigned to staff during the regular course of daily work will be reviewed. Alternative work plans may be constructed to suit weather conditions.

Approved: 1982.12.14

Revised: 1991.10.29, 1994.12.06, 1996.06.11, 2008.09.23, 2018.XX.XX



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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

1. On days when student attendance is reduced because of weather conditions, schools should consider the following options:
 - 1.1. Regular instruction.
 - 1.2. Modified instruction.
 - 1.3. Review sessions.
 - 1.4. Work completion sessions.
 - 1.5. Individual or small group instruction.
 - 1.6. Special research projects.
 - 1.7. Directed study sessions.
 - 1.8. Multi-age grouping for instruction.
 - 1.9. Student tutorials.
 - 1.10. Supervised study and/or activity sessions.
 - 1.11. Some combination of the above.
2. 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.

Approved: 1991.10.29
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