

# AP 132 – INCLEMENT WEATHER

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## Background

The Division believes that, normally, schools should remain open during inclement weather; however, it recognizes that weather conditions may result in school closures, early dismissals and/or adjustments in regular bus schedules.

## Procedures

1. During inclement weather schools will remain open.
2. The Principal is responsible for annually advising parents and school bus operators of the procedures used when the suspension of bus services, early dismissal or school closure is necessary. Parents are to be asked to listen to local radio broadcasts for up-to-date information regarding the cancellation of bussing during inclement weather.
3. A school bus operator shall not operate the school bus if, in his/her opinion, road or climatic conditions are of a nature that would make the operation of the bus hazardous to the safety and well being of the school bus passengers.
4. Parents shall ensure that their children who are passengers on a school bus are properly dressed in accordance with prevailing or potential weather conditions.
5. Staff are expected to be in school during inclement weather. Staff members are asked to listen to local radio broadcasts for precise weather and road condition information. Staff members may apply for leave under the terms and conditions outlined in the LINC agreement if they determine it is unsafe to travel to school during inclement weather.
6. In extreme weather conditions, the final decision to send a child to school or to the bus rests with the parents even though buses and schools may be operating.
7. The Director or Superintendent of Administration shall direct a Division-wide suspension of school bus service in every instance where, in his/her opinion, weather and/or road conditions constitute a significant hazard to the safety and well being of students and staff.
8. School bus service outside of the city of Lloydminster shall be suspended under any of the following conditions:
  - 8.1 The day's forecast temperature in the **local** area or **destination** area is equal to or colder than minus thirty(-30) degrees Celsius,
  - 8.2 Visibility is less than one (1) kilometer.
  - 8.3 Special warning statements are issued by Environment Canada Weather Services regarding specific weather warnings (i.e., blizzard, freezing rain, wind chill, winter storm, etc.)

9. A school bus operator shall not operate the school bus at the start of a school day if, in his/her opinion, road or climatic conditions in his/her area of service are of a nature that would make the operation of the school bus unsafe.
    - 9.1 Whenever a school bus operator decides, at the beginning of a school day, that he/she will not operate the school bus, he/she shall immediately notify the Transportation Coordinator, the Principal of each school to which he/she provides service, and the parents of each child on the route of his/her decision.
    - 9.2 Whenever a school bus operator determines that hazardous road or climatic conditions may arise during the course of a school day, he/she shall contact the Superintendent of Administration or designate and request the release of students who ride on the bus. The Principal shall release such students when requested by the Superintendent of Administration or designate. The Principal of the school may call the Superintendent of Administration or designate and request the bus contractor be contacted to release students due to hazardous conditions.
    - 9.3 A school bus operator may determine during the course of the route that road or climatic conditions make it unsafe to continue on the route. In this circumstance, the school bus operator shall attempt to park the bus in a safe location off the traveled road allowance. He/She shall immediately attempt to establish radio contact with school authorities so that parents can be informed of the circumstances and location of their children.
  10. Should a bus breakdown occur in the morning, the bus operator shall contact the Superintendent of Administration or designate as soon as possible so that the message can be relayed to the schools.
  11. Passengers will be required to have on their person, proper outer wear, headgear, mitts and footwear.
  12. The Superintendent or designate will contact school administrators informing them of any cancellation.
  13. The Principal is responsible for arranging for school staff to be available at the school during school closures to answer the phones and to provide reasonable measures for students to return home safely.
  14. The Superintendent of Administration will contact the local radio and television stations for announcements regarding the cancellation of busing operations and school closures. In each instance, these announcements will be made the preceding evening or before 6:30 a.m. on the same day that bus services are to be suspended. Announcements of any cancellations will be broadcast on the following radio stations:
    - ◆ CKSA – Lloydminster FM 95.9
    - ◆ CKLM – The Goat FM 106.9
- Note: It is recommended that two or more broadcasts be heard to ensure accuracy.

15. It shall be communicated to the parents that it is very important that they make adequate provisions for their child(ren) in advance in the event that weather or mechanical difficulties:

15.1 Force suspension of regular bus service.

15.2 Cause early dismissal of students.

15.3 Result in a bus being more than ten (10) minutes late for a scheduled stop.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 110, 116, 175 Education Act