

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. The Communications Director shall make all announcements including cancellation of bus transportation.
3. Announcements will be made over local media. The District website and social media accounts will be updated as quickly as possible.
4. Whenever possible these announcements will be made early enough in the day to allow students to remain at home.
5. The Communications Director 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.
6. Teaching, support staff employees, administrative officers and excluded staff are expected to make every reasonable effort to attend their place of work. If unable to attend, employees are to contact their immediate supervisor or District Office.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. Principals and school staffs will establish a protocol for the safe release and supervision of children during the school day.
10. At the discretion of the Superintendent, staff members may be released prior to dismissal time.

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

Adopted: October 18, 1982

Revised: August 1, 1990; September 1994; January 1999; September 24, 2018