

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

Emergency closing of school is never to be taken lightly, for public education is one of the principal functions of our community and should be maintained at a normal level except in extreme circumstances.

The Superintendent may close the district's schools or dismiss students and staff early when hazardous weather or other emergencies cause the Superintendent to believe that early dismissal or closing of the district's schools is appropriate. The Superintendent is charged with establishing a chain of command that allows for delegating this authority to another staff member in the event of the Superintendent's absence.

Schools will not be closed merely to avoid inconvenience. While it may be prudent, under certain circumstances, to excuse all students from attending school, to delay the opening hour, or to dismiss students early, the Superintendent has the responsibility to ensure that administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued to the extent possible. Therefore, if conditions affect only a single school, only that school shall be closed.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent will understandably consider many factors, including the following that relate to the safety and health of children:

- Weather conditions, both existing and predicted;
- Driving, traffic, and parking conditions affecting school and private transportation;
- Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition that would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous; and
- Actual or imminent possibility of the inability of personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.

The Superintendent will weigh these factors and take action to close the schools only after consulting with appropriate others, to the extent the Superintendent believes is necessary on that occasion, to gather sufficient information for making a decision.

Students, parents, and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with Board policy in reporting for work. When schools are closed, all school events are cancelled for the remainder of that day, unless the Superintendent believes conditions merit extraordinary consideration of a particular event and then specifically authorizes that particular event to take place later that day.

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