

NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

BUSING ON DAYS OF INCLEMENT WEATHER OR BECAUSE OF AN EMERGENCY

**AS 13.0
NPS 244-98**

POLICY:

IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD that busing and school closures on days of inclement weather or because of an emergency will be according to the following:

GENERAL

1. Where, in the opinion of designated bus operators, it is unsafe because of inclement weather for a bus to travel its route on a particular day, the established procedures will be followed to ensure prompt and coordinated action for the cancellation of school bus routes and the notification of the local radio stations.
2. Schools are to be open to non-bused students attending at the discretion of their parents. School staffs are expected to be on duty to provide service as organized by the principals.
3. Routes cancelled in the morning, will not be operated in the afternoon. Parents driving children, who are normally bused to school in the morning, will be responsible for returning them in the afternoon.
4. When routes are cancelled in the morning, there will be no transportation of Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten children attending afternoon classes.
5. Each school will have an emergency plan ready to activate if weather conditions are so severe that it is not possible or safe to send students home.
6. The Director of Education will have sole responsibility and authority to close schools on behalf of the Board in the event of severe dangerous weather conditions.
7. When pupils must be returned home because of other emergencies (lack of heating, flood, etc.) the principal will obtain prior authorization from the Superintendent of Business who will advise the Transportation Officer to activate the buses.

IN THE EVENT BUSES ARE CANCELLED BEFORE SCHOOL OPENING FOR THE DAY

1. The recommendation to operate or not in extraordinary weather conditions is the responsibility of the bus drivers who can observe the local conditions and who will give their recommendations to designated school bus operators.

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2. The designated school bus operators will be chosen geographically to represent all areas under the jurisdiction of the Board.
3. If the recommendation is made not to run or to run late, the designated school bus operators will consult with the Transportation Officer no later than 07:00 h. in the morning. Operators will inform the parents of those students unable to be picked up.
4. The Transportation Officer will confer with those related agencies within the geographic area to corroborate the designated bus operator's decision.
5. The Director of Education or his/her designate may request the local radio stations to broadcast a public service announcement regarding cancellation of buses on the affected routes.

WHEN BUSES ARE TO RETURN STUDENTS EARLY AFTER SCHOOL OPENING FOR THE DAY, DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. The recommendation to the school principal to activate the school buses to return students as a result of deteriorating weather conditions, is the responsibility of the school bus operators; such action will be taken only when severe conditions prevail.
2. If the decision is made to activate the buses, the Transportation Officer is immediately advised by the school principal concerned.
3. The Director of Education will request the local radio stations to broadcast a public service announcement regarding the early return of bused students.
4. A minimal time of 1 1/2 hours is necessary between the decision to activate the school buses and the departure of the first bus (because of notification of operators, drivers and radio stations).
5. When students are to be returned, it will be the responsibility of the schools to make every reasonable effort to notify the parents of children in primary grades and to determine alternative accommodations for children of absent parents.
6. In early November of each year, it will be the responsibility of the schools to notify parents of this policy. Such notice will include a copy of the policy and suggestions to parents to pre-arrange alternative accommodation for children where there is no adult in the house.