

# DETERMINING WHEN TO CANCEL BUSES

PWPSD exercises care and caution during inclement weather.



# 1

During times of inclement weather, PWPSD's Director of Transportation, and a Transportation employee located in the northern end of the Division are both on call. Between 4:00 a.m. and 4:30 a.m., the Director consults with local weather reports and Alberta 511. By 4:30 a.m., and over the course of the next two hours, both employees drive the primary and secondary highways throughout PWPSD's attendance boundaries, covering approximately 150 to 200 kilometers each, while performing braking tests to determine skid conditions.

# 2

As the delegated authority to shut down all bus routes, or a section of routes, the Director will make a decision by 6:30 a.m. and then notify the Superintendent.



# 3

Local radio stations pull individual route updates from PWPSD's online and e-mail-based bus route notification system. Families should sign up for notifications at

<http://transportation.pwpsd.ca>

...or, scan the QR Code:



# 4

Regional and division-wide cancellations are posted on PWPSD's website and Facebook and Twitter feeds.



# 5

A bus driver who has made a reasonable attempt may cancel their specific route, under consultation with the Director of Transportation.

Some bus drivers may make calls to individual homes, and PWPSD may opt to send out automated messages to homes using PowerAnnounce telephone notification software.

Please provide your current daytime telephone number to your bus driver and the **Transportation Office, Grande Prairie:** (780) 532-7734, or the **Spirit River Sub-Office:** (780) 864-3741.



## REMEMBER:

- **Students:** Dress warmly for the weather.
- **Parents:** It is your decision to allow your child to ride a bus during inclement weather. Share your decision with your bus driver and the Transportation Office in Grande Prairie or the Spirit River Sub-Office.
- **Safety:** According to the American School Bus Council, school buses are the safest method for transporting children to and from school.
- **Varying Conditions:** PWPSD covers more than 16,000 square kms – weather and road conditions can vary.
- **Visibility Issues:** Bus drivers will not stop on primary or secondary highways when there is limited or no visibility. The Transportation Office will notify parents by telephone. Parents, please call your driver or the office if you feel your stop is dangerous.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** If buses are cancelled when travel to extracurricular events is planned, please check with the school on the status of the trip. Inclement weather en route or at the destination may also impact the decision to allow students to travel.
- **Know your Zone:** PWPSD is divided into seven zones based on high school attendance areas. All buses associated with a particular high school attendance area are cancelled at the same time. Any or all seven zones could be cancelled at any time. Parents of elementary students need to know which high school is associated with their area, as outlined in [Policy EAAF – PWPSD Buses and School Operation during Inclement Weather](#).

COLD WEATHER CANCELLATION

**-40°  
CELSIUS**

excluding wind chill, or  
**-48 with wind chill**

(Source: Weather Network)

# SCHOOL BUS