



POLICY EAAF – PWSB Buses & School Operation During Inclement Weather

The Board, staff, parents and students are responsible for the safety of children who are required to travel on school buses.

Given the significant difference in weather, road conditions and maturity of our students, the Board recognizes that parents retain the right to make the final decision about their child’s use of the transportation system in accordance with their own unique situation.

PURPOSE:

To support safe transportation for the school community.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

1. It is the responsibility of the parents:
 - a) to access information about bus cancellations and school closures by listening to local radio stations or checking the Peace Wapiti web page www.pwsd76.ab.ca.
 - b) to ensure all students riding on school buses from November 1 to March 31 have appropriate winter clothing. In those cases where children are not appropriately attired for winter conditions, the bus driver shall advise the parent or principal and the Director of Transportation.
2. **Bus Cancellations Due to Temperature**
 - a) If the temperature is -40 degrees Celsius (excluding wind chill) or colder at 6:30 a.m. at a Key Weather Station Location (see chart) the Superintendent* will cancel school buses in that High School Attendance Area.

High School Attendance Area	Key Weather Station Location
SRRA Attendance Area (includes schools in Rycroft, Woking)	Rycroft Camera Highway 2
Savanna and Bonanza Attendance Area	Peace Wapiti Savanna Weather BUG
Eaglesham Attendance Area	Eaglesham Weather Station
Beaverlodge Attendance Area (includes schools in Elmworth, Hythe, Wembley)	Beaverlodge - Camera 43-02 (Highway 43 – 96 metres east of Junction 723)
Ridgevalley Attendance Area	Debolt – Camera 43-06 (Highway 43-875 metres East of Range Road 265)
PWA and Sexsmith Attendance Area (includes schools in Grande Prairie, Teepee Creek, LaGlace, Bezanson, Clairmont and Grovedale)	Environment Canada at the Grande Prairie Airport

- b) Bus cancellation information will be updated on the jurisdiction web page. Bus drivers shall advise the parents of the students affected.

3. Bus Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather or Road Conditions:

- a) The Superintendent* may cancel buses either individually or collectively when weather /road conditions constitute a safety risk to the students being transported.
- b) Bus cancellation information will be updated on the jurisdiction web page. Bus drivers would advise the parents of the students affected that buses are cancelled.
- c) The individual bus driver, after making a reasonable attempt that morning, is granted discretionary power to cancel or alter his/her route to ensure the safety of students being transported.
- d) Where routes are cancelled or altered at the discretion of the bus driver, it is the responsibility of that bus driver to advise the parents of the students, and the Superintendent*.
- e) In circumstances of inclement weather, schools will remain open whenever possible even if any or all school buses are not operating. Parents need to be aware that under extreme emergency conditions, the Superintendent may close schools.
- f) Under extreme emergency conditions:
 - i) where students cannot be delivered safely to their destination, the students will remain on the bus until released to responsible adult care.
 - ii) For the afternoon return trip, is, in the opinion of the Director of Transportation, students cannot be safely delivered to their destination, students will remain at the school.

4. Cancellation of Extra-curricular Trips Due to Weather/Road Conditions:

- a) To ensure the safety of PWSD students, staff and volunteers, their participation in an extra-curricular activity is cancelled/postponed if:
 - i) on regular school days, participants must travel through an area (either internal or external to PWSD) where school buses are cancelled due to weather/road conditions.
 - ii) on non-school days, participants must travel through an area (either internal or external to PWSD) where Alberta's Official Road Reports (www.511.alberta.ca) indicates an RCMP advisory that travel is not recommended.
- b) If weather/road conditions improve significantly, then school administration may consult with the Director of Transportation to determine if the travel ban can be lifted. The Director of Transportation's decision will be guided by the Alberta's Official Road Reports.

- c) Schools participating in extra-curricular activities that involve winter travel should develop contingency plans and funds so that during inclement weather, groups could choose to leave a day earlier and/or return a day later.
 - 5. Students absent when buses are cancelled will be marked excusably absent and will not suffer any penalties for school attendance award programs.
 - 6. In the event of inclement weather, parents retain the right to make the final decision about their child’s use of transportation. Parents are responsible to advise the school and bus shop so that students do not suffer any penalties for school attendance award programs.
- * Superintendent or designate

REFERENCES

Cross References:

[Policy IE – Student Attendance](#) see 4.a)iii) and 5.c)

Legal Reference:

[School ACT](#) RSA 2000 Section 57

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Next Review: 2020/21