

PEACE WAPITI SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 76

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.

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 or supervisor of transportation.
2. **Bus Cancellations Due to Temperature**
 - a) If the temperature is -40 degrees Celsius or colder at 6 a.m. at a Key Weather Station Location (see chart) the Superintendent* will cancel school buses in that High School Attendance Area. (Wind chill factor is not considered.)

High School Attendance Area	Key Weather Station Location
SRRA Attendance Area (includes schools in Rycroft, Woking)	Rycroft Weather Bug
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)	AMA near Beaverlodge - Camera 43-02 (Highway 43 – 96 metres east of Junction 723)
Ridgevalley Attendance Area	AMA near 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

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- b) The Superintendent* shall notify the local radio stations prior to 7:00 a.m.

c) 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) The Superintendent* shall notify the radio stations prior to 7:00 a.m. in the event that buses are cancelled due to inclement weather or road conditions. 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 where students cannot be delivered safely to their destination, the students will remain on the bus until released to responsible adult care.

4. Students absent when buses are cancelled will be marked excusably absent and will not suffer any penalties for school attendance award programs.

* Superintendent or designate

REFERENCES

Cross References: links to

Legal Reference: School ACT RSA 2000 Section 57

BM#: 114-96; 77-06