



Inclement Weather and Board Cancellations

Date Approved: 2015

Projected Review Date: 2019

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PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff. Inclement weather, extreme temperature, emergency condition, or a City of Hamilton emergency may occasionally result in the delay or cancellation of transportation services and/or the closure of schools.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- The decision to close schools, cancel board operations or cancel student transportation services shall be at the discretion of the Director of Education or designate, in consultation with the Director of Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and the General Manager of the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS).
- Decisions are made in interests of safety for students, staff and bus drivers.
- HWDSB covers a large geographic size that may experience varied weather patterns. HWDSB will make system-wide decisions regarding transportation or closure of schools and board operations, except in the case of emergencies as defined in the terminology section.
- HWDSB will communicate the cancellation of regular home to school transportation services and/or the closure of schools and board operations, due to inclement weather, extreme temperature, emergency condition, City of Hamilton emergency, or any other reason. HWDSB will share this communication with parents, students and staff through various media sources.
- It is always the choice of the parents/guardians regarding whether or not it is safe for their children to attend school.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

To ensure the safety of students, staff, bus drivers and other building occupants where events result in instances of inclement weather, extreme weather, emergency condition, or City of Hamilton emergencies.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Director of Education or designate

TERMINOLOGY:

City of Hamilton Emergency: Any situation within the city limits of Hamilton where the City of Hamilton has officially invoked its Emergency Plan.



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Emergency Condition: A breakdown in essential services, such as, but not limited to hydro, heat and/or water, or other conditions whereby the safety of students, staff and other building occupants would be compromised.

Extreme Temperature: Weather that does not warrant the declaration of an inclement weather day. Extreme temperature includes but is not limited to, extreme cold weather with wind chill or extreme hot weather with high humidex.

Inclement Weather: A day where road or weather conditions make it dangerous to safely operate a school bus or private vehicle.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The decision to cancel School and Board Administrative Operations is difficult to make. Therefore, the decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of students, staff and bus drivers in mind. Inclement weather days will always result in cancellation of school and board operations, as well as transportation.

Board staff will maintain procedures surrounding:

- The decision to cancel all school and board operations and transportation;
- The decision to cancel individual school or board operations;
- The decision to cancel transportation due to extreme temperatures.

PROGRESS INDICATORS:

Intended Outcome	Assessment
To ensure the safety of students, staff, bus drivers and other building occupants where events result in instances of inclement weather, extreme weather, emergency condition, or City of Hamilton emergencies.	This policy will be measured through the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services annual Transportation Consortium Update provided to the Board of Trustees each fall and communication through the Director or designate to stakeholders.

REFERENCES:

Government Documents

Education Act – 19(1)



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HWDSB Policies

Use of Board Facilities

Transportation Policy