

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE NO. 102

OPERATION OF SCHOOL BUSES IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

Background

Risks are not be taken with the safety of students riding on school buses. Particular care must be taken during periods of inclement weather and/or when road conditions are hazardous. The responsibility for the safety of school bus passengers during such circumstances is shared by the Board, Divisional staff, school bus operators, and by parents.

Procedures

1. The Transportation Supervisor shall direct a Divisional-wide suspension of school bus service in every instance where the temperature is equal to, or colder than, minus forty (40) degrees Celsius, or where the temperature is minus thirty (30) degrees Celsius and a wind chill factor results is a temperature of minus forty (40) degrees Celsius or colder. The temperature will be that as reported by Environment Canada at 0615 hours.
2. Each rural driver may cancel their individual route entirely, or in part, when they feel that it is unsafe to operate their bus. The driver must ensure that all affected parents, school administrators and transportation supervisor, are notified in the event of such a change.
3. The Transportation Supervisor may suspend all or any transportation routes where it is believed that climatic and/or road conditions constitute a significant hazard to the safety and well-being of school bus passengers.
4. A decision by the Transportation Supervisor to suspend bus service shall be communicated to all bus drivers. The Transportation Supervisor shall inform the Division Administration Office and all school principals affected by suspension of bus service. Parents will be notified via electronic media (bus app notification).
5. A decision by the Transportation Supervisor to suspend school bus service shall be communicated by announcements on Central Alberta radio stations. These local radio stations will be notified of the suspension of school bus service as soon as possible after the decision to suspend has been made.
6. Parents who have brought their children to school on days when school bus services are suspended will be responsible for returning their children home at the end of the school day.