

WEATHER-RELATED SCHEDULES

BOARD POLICY

A goal of the transportation department is to provide maximum safety for students between home and school and on-school-sponsored trips.

Prior Planning

1. The District will develop a staff/agency telephone directory for their respective units, to be used in the event of school closures, delayed schedules or early dismissals.
2. District “Snow Day” and Alternate School Schedule information will be circulated to parents and staff through student and faculty handbooks and informational notices.
3. The Plant Manager will make sure that all equipment and materials needed by staff for inclement weather is ordered and arrives before November.
4. The Director of Transportation will be responsible for insuring that training is provided to bus drivers on driving in snow conditions, chaining procedures and low visibility conditions.

Types of Schedules

Regular schedule: Schools will start and dismiss at their usual times. Some buses may be delayed due to ice, snow or chaining needs. Students should remain at bus stops until the bus arrives on pick-up routes.

Alternative Schedule I: Schools will start at their usual time but will dismiss early. Schools may close early due to heavy snow, no heat or water in the school or other emergency conditions. Telephone notification will be put into effect.

Alternative Schedule II: Schools will start later than normal. Weather conditions may be improving and school could open on a delayed schedule. Parents will be notified by listening to radio and TV and telephone notification. District administration, in discussion with the Transportation Department, will determine the length of delays.

Alternative Schedule III: Schools will start at their usual time. **Some bus routes** within those schools will run on a delay. Only those routes affected will be delayed. District administration in discussion with the Transportation Department will determine the length of delay. Parents will be notified by listening to radio and TV and telephone notification.

Closure of School: When it is found that travel is not safe for students and staff, schools may be closed. Parents will be notified by listening to radio and TV stations and telephone notification.

WEATHER-RELATED SCHEDULES**BOARD POLICY**Snow Day Procedure

The Bus Mechanic, Transportation Supervisor and other pre-determined persons will be contacted for current input on weather and road conditions.

Criteria to be used:

Can transportation employees get to work?

Can teachers and other school support staff get to school?

What is the condition of roadways (i.e., plowed, snow, ice, etc.)?

What is the duration and intensity of the storm?

Are there power and water at school sites?

What is the feasibility of snow removal at sites?

If conditions appear to be threatening the safe transportation of students, the Transportation Supervisor will contact the Superintendent to report the results of his/her investigation and discuss which schedule proposal fits the situation.

After a decision is made, the Superintendent or designees will contact personnel at each affected site and direct them accordingly. If applicable, the Superintendent or designee will cancel field trips.

Home to School

An Alternative Schedule provides for particular buses to run on a later schedule. These buses will start later than scheduled. A decision to activate the alternative schedule option will be made by 6:00 AM if at all possible. Families should listen to radio and TV stations for announcement of implementation of an alternative schedule. Only those students riding buses in effected areas will be affected by an alternative schedule. The District will activate the automated phone notification system in addition to contacting the media.

Snow and Ice

During the winter months, the weather can produce conditions, which may hinder safe travel on the roadways as well as cause power outages at the site for extended periods of time. When either condition reflects a hazard to students, the district will declare appropriate action and schools may be closed or alternative schedules put into effect.

WEATHER-RELATED SCHEDULES**BOARD POLICY**Reduced Visibility

When atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during regular home to school transportation, bus service may be delayed at the recommendation of the Transportation Supervisor and the approval of the Superintendent.

The Bus Mechanic and/or Transportation Supervisor are responsible for checking visibility on the roadway to insure the safe transportation of students on home to school routes.

Because not all areas of the district may be affected by the reduced visibility, only those areas directly affected will have a change in transportation schedules. Schools may remain on normal schedules or district-wide schedule changes may be activated.

Activity Trips

When on an activity trip and the visibility drops to 200 feet or less, the school bus driver shall have discretionary authority to discontinue operation of the bus if the driver determines that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility. The driver shall ascertain that the bus is in a safe location off the road. The driver shall notify the transportation office or a supervisor immediately when the situation occurs.

Legal Reference:

Education Code

46010 Total days of attendance

46100-46192 Attendance; maximum credit; minimum day

Vehicle Code

34501.6

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