

## **TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS IN SEVERE WEATHER**

### **Background**

The District recognizes its responsibility for the safety and welfare of students while commuting to/from school or school-approved activities via Board provided transportation.

The District realizes that, occasionally, situations of severe inclement weather exist or are predicted during or outside of the school day and recognizes that on certain occasions it may have to alter or introduce additional safety measures. This includes the need to cancel transportation.

The District realizes that the reliability of busses and the safety of bus passengers, including the need to wait for busses, is potentially hampered at severe temperatures.

### **Procedures for cancellation of District provided transportation**

1. The cancellation of District provided School Bus transportation within the boundaries of the school district and within 30 kilometres of the boundary of the school district will occur:
  - 1.1 When the temperature of that community is predicted to be below -35 Celsius, regardless of wind chill
2. The decision to cancel regular bus routes due to extreme temperatures is the responsibility of the Superintendent and/or Secretary Treasurer or designate.
  - 2.1 The decision to cancel regular bus routes due to extreme temperatures should be made by 4:00 p.m. the evening before the cancellation and that decision should be immediately communicated to all affected bus passengers and schools. This decision is based on the predicted temperature at 7:00 a.m. the next morning
  - 2.2 This decision is not based on the ability to provide transportation. The inability to provide a bus for a regular bus route is emergent and will be communicated to affected families in real time.
  - 2.3 This decision is separate from the decision to close schools under AP 132. It is possible that schools will be open, but transportation will not be provided
3. When temperatures rise above -35 Celsius, regardless of wind chill, the busses can resume regular or altered activity for that day. Afternoon bus runs can occur on days where morning runs are cancelled, for example.
4. While the district recognizes that the cancellation of District provided transportation due to extreme temperatures will mean that parents and guardians will choose other means of transportation to transport their child(ren) to school, there is no permission for schools to arrange other means of transportation for extra-curricular or other out of school events.
5. The cancellation of District provided School Bus transportation outside the boundaries of the school district will occur:

- 5.1 When the temperature of communities on route is below -30 Celsius, regardless of wind chill
- 6. The decision to cancel bus trips outside the boundaries of the District is the responsibility of the Transportation Manager
  - 6.1 This decision may be emergent, but the prediction of extreme temperatures should be communicated in advance to the affected school(s).

### **Procedures for Cancellation of Student Activities in Extreme Temperatures**

- 1. There should be no extended outdoor-based student activities below -20 Celsius regardless of wind chill.
  - 1.1 This is for both on-site and off-site activities
  - 1.2 This includes being transported by District provided transportation

Approved: February 26, 2024