



POLICY NO. 6010

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

POLICY

The Superintendent of Schools, or designate, is empowered to make the decision about closing a school(s).

Legal Reference: *The School Act, Section 73(b)*



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REGULATIONS

1. Due to the geographic dispersion of the School District the Superintendent or designate is empowered to make the decision about closing a school(s).
2. In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent or designate will consider the following factors:
 - (a) Health and safety of students.
 - (b) Weather conditions both existing and predicted.
 - (c) Driving, traffic and parking conditions affecting public and private transportation.
 - (d) Actual occurrence and imminent possibility of any emergency condition which would make the operations of schools difficult or dangerous.
 - (e) Inability of teaching personnel to report for duty which might result in inadequate supervision of students.
3. In the absence of the Superintendent, the decision to close a school will be made by a member of Senior Staff.
4. Notwithstanding the above, where an emergency situation exists which the principal deems threatening to the health, welfare or safety of students, and where it is not practical to seek prior approval, the principal shall take such action as s/he deems appropriate, and shall report all pertinent facts to the Board through its Senior Staff at the earliest possible opportunity.
5. If conditions affect only a single school, only that school will be closed.
6. Prior to the beginning of the school year the administration of the school should establish the procedures that will be used to notify parents in the case of emergency closure of the school.
7. School buses will operate wherever and whenever possible as outlined in Policy 3600, Transporting Students on Regular Bus Routes.
8. Students absent from school due to the above circumstances shall be marked absent with no penalties incurred.
9. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with District practice in reporting for work.