Greater Essex County District School Board

Policy: Inclement Winter Weather – Emergency School Closings and Transportation

Reference No: P-AD-05

The Greater Essex County District School Board is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment for its students and staff. It is the objective of the Board to keep all schools and workplaces open every instructional/operational day, whenever possible, to meet the needs of students and the community.

“Winter Weather” is defined as any weather condition including snow, ice, freezing rain and associated thawing conditions, regardless of the season or time of year.

For other types of inclement weather, such as extreme heat, extreme cold, thunderstorms, flooding, and fog, refer to Family and Community Support – Extreme Weather

The Greater Essex County District School Board expects:

1. That each school be in session and that each employee be in attendance at his/her duties each school day;

2. That the transportation of students be cancelled when it is considered to be unsafe, as directed by the General Manager or designate of Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services in cooperation with school bus operators. In extreme circumstances, school closures, as directed by the Director of Education, may be necessary as a result of inclement winter weather;

3. That this Policy shall apply to all schools, including elementary, secondary, Continuing Education and Central Administration Offices;

4. That this Policy shall apply when any winter weather emergency is imminent;

5. That this Policy shall apply to either the entire jurisdiction of the Board or when inclement winter weather may affect only one or more of the municipalities within the jurisdiction;

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Regulation: Inclement Winter Weather – Emergency School Closings and Transportation

Reference No: R-AD-05

1. The decision to close schools shall be at the direction of the Director of Education or designate.

2. The decision to close the Board Office and other Central Administration Offices shall be at the discretion of the Director of Education or designate.

3. Principals shall, in consultation with the Director or designate, have discretion to close their schools and the reason(s) for which shall be communicated by the Superintendent of Business, as soon as possible, to Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services (WESTS).

4. If the school closure occurs after 6:30 am, the Central Administration Offices shall remain open at least until all schools are closed.

5. All contact with the news media relating to school closures or early dismissal due to inclement winter weather shall be made through the Director's Office.

6. WESTS shall consult with the bus company(s) serving the Board before the end of September of each year to review the Board's policies and procedures pertaining to inclement winter weather closures.

7. The Facility Services Department shall coordinate snow and ice removal based on weather conditions/events, in accordance with Administrative Procedure AP-AD-07 "Inclement Weather – Emergency School Closings and Transportation".

8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide timely information to communities with respect to any change in Board operations or transportation services through local media outlets, the Board's website, the WESTS website (buskids.ca) and any other means as may be determined to be necessary.

   Principals shall annually remind parents/guardians that school bus cancellation information is communicated through local media outlets, the Board's website and the WESTS website. (buskids.ca)

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