

Series 700 – Auxiliary Services

Policy Title: **District Inclement Weather Response Procedures**

Policy Code No. **711.8R1**

Inclement weather conditions can include such things as snowstorms, dangerous wind chills, ice, fog or any number of other potential threatening weather conditions. When the forecast predicts inclement weather conditions the following occurs:

Morning Procedures

- a. The district transportation supervisor periodically checks weather conditions throughout the night. The superintendent of schools will be involved in the evaluation of the weather and road conditions. These two people will make the decision on school delays and cancellations at the earliest reasonable time.
- b. If the school day schedule is changed due to weather conditions, the transportation supervisor, and the superintendent of schools will be responsible to call the radio and television stations to alert the public. The district will very clearly identify/publish just which stations will be notified. All building administrators will be immediately contacted by phone, or other electronic means.

Early Dismissal Procedures

When the weather forecast predicts inclement weather conditions while school is in session, the following occurs:

- a. The transportation supervisor monitors radio stations, the national weather service in Des Moines, as well as local road conditions with visual road checks by driving district bus routes.
- b. If weather conditions warrant an early dismissal, then all area radio and television stations will be alerted about the schedule change at least one hour prior to dismissal. All building administrators and bus drivers are immediately contacted by phone.
- c. The transportation supervisor continues to monitor weather conditions by driving district bus routes.
 1. If weather conditions remain safe for student transport, all students will be returned home according to the adjusted early dismissal schedule.

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2. If weather conditions deteriorate further, the transportation supervisor will recommend halting the bussing of students. The district will announce through all media that parents/guardians will have to pick up their children at their attendance centers when it's safe to do so. The district will continue to offer shelter to all students until weather conditions improve and the parents/guardians arrange to pick up their children.

Mid-Route

Turn

Around

If buses have already been sent out, and weather conditions deteriorate to what the driver feels is an unsafe situation for a school bus, the driver may:

- a. pull off the roadway to a safe place with hazard lights flashing and wait for conditions to improve;
- b. if necessary, stop and pull in to the next available safe stop and radio for parent/guardian pick up;
- c. if unsafe to stop at a student's stop because of poor visibility, the driver may request to leave the student with another family on the route. Driver shall notify office and wait for approval.
- d. turn around mid-route, if possible, and bring students back to the high school if it is felt to be a risk to continue. Bus drivers are to remain on duty until they are dismissed.

Any or all of these decisions by the driver will be respected as a good judgment call for the safety of the children and not an indication of lack of competent driving skill.

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