

## INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDERS

### Cancelling School Buses and Closing Schools Due to Bad Weather

During the winter months, inclement weather may cause the disruption of bus transportation and at times regular school operations. We must recognize that there are days when school buses will not be able to operate because of extreme temperatures, fog, freezing rain or other adverse road conditions. Parents/guardians are reminded to review the inclement weather information below for the 2019-2020 school year.

With safety of students as the primary concern, the Superintendent and Transportation Manager make a joint decision, between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on school closure and cancelling buses.

Since Central Alberta weather conditions are extremely unpredictable, families, staff, and substitute teachers have a responsibility to check our social media feeds, local radio, and/or division websites for busing and school closure announcements when inclement weather conditions exist.

The Transportation Manager contacts the appropriate radio stations for public service announcements:

- FM stations Sunny 94.1, Big 105.5, CKGY 95.5, ZED 98.9
- AM stations CHED 630, CFCW 790, KJR 1440

The following are updated and posted/shared:

- **SwiftReach:** Message to registered households
- **Website:** Notice on [Division](#) and [School](#) banners; [Bus Route Status](#) on Transportation webpage
- **Twitter:** [@WCPS72](#)
- **Facebook:** [Wolf Creek Public Schools](#)

### Diploma and PAT Exams

Inclement weather includes situations where the weather conditions prevent a student from being able to arrive safely at the nearest available writing location or where the writing locations have been closed due to severe weather. This can include situations where division school buses were not operating due to weather conditions.

In the event that a group of students are impacted and unable to access the writing of a diploma exam as a result of inclement weather, an application will be made on their behalf to the Alberta Education Special Cases Team to indicate how the students were impacted. The decision to provide an exemption is provided at the sole discretion of Alberta Education.\* (excerpt from *Alberta Education General Information Bulletin*)

During inclement weather, schools with writing locations will, where possible, remain open for Diploma exams to be completed by students who are able to make their way into the exam location. Students, where possible and where safe to do so, are encouraged to write Diploma exams on the assigned day as these are not able to be rescheduled. Writing times will be accommodated for late arrivals on the same day of the exam.

Students in Grade 6 and 9 who are writing PAT exams and miss the exam due to inclement weather will be accommodated on an alternate day, where possible.

Students and parents should watch for notifications with further details on any inclement weather day where a Diploma or PAT exam is being written as specific details will be provided on school websites and radio.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- When a decision is made to cancel bus transportation in the morning and schools remain open, buses will typically run at the end of the school day to return students home.
- Bus drivers have the individual authority to cancel their route, or decide not to stop at a particular pick-up site if they feel the weather/road conditions warrant such action. This can occur regardless of a decision being made by the Superintendent regarding bus cancellations.
- The decision to cancel all bus runs for a full day of school automatically includes the closing of the affected school(s) for all students. However, there may be occasions when the following occurs:
  - Area bus runs (eg. Bluffton, Clive, etc) are cancelled in the morning but schools remain open, or
  - Cases such as fog conditions and freezing rain, where road conditions are expected to improve significantly within a short period of time, but improvement in road conditions occurs too late to operate morning bus routes.
    - In such cases, schools will remain open, and the bus runs will be reopened for operation in the afternoon in order to transport students home who found alternative modes of transport to school. Reminders that the afternoon bus runs will operate and will always be announced on the radio immediately in the morning.
- Schools will be closed with no buses running when the air temperature in excess of -40 degrees C exists regardless of wind conditions. In instances where the air temperature is between -30 degrees C and -40 degrees C, the wind chill factor may be considered if it creates a temperature in excess of -40 degrees C with the wind chill factor included.
- Schools will be closed with no buses running when dangerous road conditions and/or poor visibility (e.g. heavy snowfall, blowing snow, freezing rain, heavy fog) are present.
- Pay careful attention to the bus cancellation message if your child/children are bus riders. Waiting for buses in extreme cold temperatures is very dangerous and being cognizant of bus cancellations will ensure your child/children are not outside waiting for a bus that has been cancelled.
- Dress warmly on cold weather days as school buses may be delayed and your child/children may be waiting for the bus for a longer time than usual.
- Wolf Creek Public Schools will continue to announce any district-wide busing cancellations due to inclement weather, fog, or poor road conditions using WCPS' communication practice.

*It is a parent's decision whether or not they send their child to school on inclement weather days when buses are cancelled and schools remain open.*