

West Bonner County School District

INSTRUCTION

2210

School Closure

The Superintendent may order the closure of schools in the event of extreme weather, facility failures or other emergency, in compliance with established procedures for notifying parents, students and staff.

The State of Idaho allows Emergency School Closures of eleven (11) hours per year below the minimum number of required hours for emergency school closures due to adverse weather conditions or facility failure.

To ensure that students receive at least the minimum number of instructional hours, school calendars are to include additional minutes per day or additional days identified as snow days/emergency school closure days that total a minimum of twenty-two hours of instructional time. These twenty-two hours equal four snow days/emergency closure days; if these hours or days are not used for emergency closure, the Board of Trustees may alter the school closure date.

Procedure for School Closure (Snow Day):

- 1) School will be closed if either of the following conditions exists:
 - i) Life threatening blizzard or extreme sub zero weather
 - ii) Highways or county roads closed to emergency traffic only
- 2) The Director of Transportation will evaluate all county roads by communicating with county road officials, calling driver or parents in specific areas, or driving some of the roads. This information will be shared with the superintendent; if it is determined that 75% of the buses can safely run, school will not be closed. The Transportation Director shall determine which routes, if any, will run and inform that driver who will notify parents of students on their routes.
 - i) Students are responsible to get to school if they can. Parents should make alternative provisions for getting their student to school or keep them home.
 - ii) Students on a closed bus route will not be considered absent while their route is closed. All work and tests may be made up.
- 3) If between 50% and 75% of the routes are open, the Transportation Director may recommend to the Superintendent that schools start two hours later than normal to give road crews time to open more roads.
- 4) If fewer than 50% of the bus routes can be run, school will be closed.
- 5) If it is determined that school will be closed, the Transportation Director will notify bus driver before 6:00 a.m. This information will be faxed to radio stations and TV station by 6:00 a.m. Staff phone trees will be initiated.

- 6) If it seems prudent to send some students home before conditions worsen, the Transportation Director will inform the principals of bus routes that will be sent home early. This information will also be released to the radio and TV stations at the same time.

There are several reasons for this procedure:

- 1) The county determines which roads will be plowed on a day to day basis.
- 2) We want parents to know when we'll have school and which bus routes will be canceled so that they can make alternative plans to get their children to school, or keep them home.
- 3) Makeup days are of little value on Saturdays or added to the end of the school year.
- 4) Safety of students and staff will be the top consideration for closing school.
- 5) Opening school when fewer than 75% of the buses can run their routes results in loss of school revenue and loss of valuable instructional time.
- 6) Only under extreme circumstances will student be sent home early and only after parents have been notified via telephone. Since it would be impossible to notify the parents of an entire school, only specific routes will be sent home early. Other students will be held until a parent comes to check out their child(ren) or until regular dismissal time. Under these conditions, parents are asked to meet their child at their bus stop.

School Activities During School Closure

For all schools, no co-curricular or extracurricular practices will be held on full-day closings. On such days, at the middle and junior high levels, no games will be played. At the high school level, all games will be decided on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the coach, athletic director, and site and district administrator and transportation supervisor based on issues of safety.

When schools are closed due to health reasons, activities are to be suspended for all levels until school again resumes. This applies to school sponsored activities on weekends.

Sponsors and/or advisors of scheduled activities, meetings, or use of school facilities shall be notified of cancellation of school.

Cross Reference: 3055 School Activities During School Closure

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512 Governance of schools

Policy History:

Adopted on: March 14, 2007

Revised on: March 12, 2008