

EMERGENCY SCHOOL & DISTRICT CLOSINGS

The Superintendent is empowered to close the District schools or to dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that may threaten the health or safety of students and personnel.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent will consider many factors, including the following:

- Weather conditions, both existing and predicted;
- Driving, traffic, and parking conditions, affecting public and private transportation facilities;
- Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition which would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous;
- Inability of teaching personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.

School Closings: No school, office, or system event cancellation or delay will be made without the direct authorization of the Superintendent of Schools. In the event the Superintendent is unavailable, such decisions will be made by the Assistant Superintendent or School Board Chairperson.

Announcements: When the Superintendent decides it is necessary to delay opening or close any facility or school or cancel any school event, the Superintendent will initiate all related communications to the public by television, school alert system, or other available means.

Delayed Opening of Schools: The Superintendent or designee, may delay the opening of schools upon determining that weather conditions appear extremely hazardous to operate school buses at the regular early morning hours, but that travel conditions will appreciably improve later in the morning. The public announcement will report the delayed opening, including the cancellation of morning kindergarten, if necessary. Schools and offices will close on the regular schedules. After-school activities and events will not be affected by a delayed opening.

Closing of Schools Only for the Entire Day: When the Superintendent determines that weather or other conditions exist or will develop that would make it unwise to open one or more schools any time during the day, the announcement communicated to television stations will state that the School District is closed. If school is closed for the entire day, all evening programs may be cancelled.

Distance Education During Inclement Weather. The Superintendent may approve school or district-wide instruction by way of remote instruction or other form of “distance education”. Unless the use of distance education for a specific day has previously been communicated, the Superintendent or designee will include the necessary information regarding the remote instruction/distance learning day in the announcement that school has been canceled.

Afternoon and Evening Program Cancellations: When schools are open to the end of the school day, but weather or other conditions deteriorate in the late afternoon, the Superintendent may decide to cancel afternoon and evening programs. Schools and offices should plan and communicate alternate dates and times to hold programs or events.

Weekend Closings: When weather or other conditions are predicted or develop that would make it hazardous to operate weekend programs or events, the Superintendent is responsible for decisions regarding cancellations and for notifying the appropriate media.

Students, parents, and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures which will be used to notify them in case of emergency closings and whether action is taken before or during school hours. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with Board policy in reporting for work.

Reference:

RSA 189:1, Days of School

NH Dept of Ed Rule – Ed 306.18, School Year

NH Dept of Ed Rule – Ed 306.19, School Calendar

NH Dept of Ed Rule – Ed 306.22, Distance Education

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