

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC S.R.D. NO. 41	CODE: EBCD-Policy
LEGAL REFERENCES: <i>School Act</i> , Section 41	TITLE: Emergency Closings
CROSS REFERENCE: CA, School - Based Leadership, and EEA, Student Transportation	ADOPTION DATE: February 7, 2001
	REVISION DATE:

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designate to close schools in the Division or in specified areas of the Division and to suspend bus service when weather or other conditions are deemed to be hazardous to the safety of students and staff.

The Board expects parents to ensure that their children are clothed adequately for the weather conditions and to make decisions regarding keeping their children at home if they deem it is unsafe for them to walk to the school or a designated bus stop. Parents are expected to be alert to weather conditions that could adversely affect their children and to listen to the radio for bulletins regarding school closure.

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC S.R.D. NO. 41	CODE: EBCD-Guidelines
LEGAL REFERENCES: <i>School Act</i> , Section 41	TITLE: Emergency Closings (Page 1 of 2)
CROSS REFERENCE: CA, School - Based Leadership	ADOPTION DATE: February 7, 2001
	REVISION DATE: December 9, 2004

1. School bus service shall be suspended at a temperature of -40°C or a wind chill factor of -50 as measured at the appropriate Environmental Weather Service Centre. School bus service may also be suspended due to unsafe weather or road conditions. The Transportation Manager shall consult with the police, the AMA and the local Municipality Weather Office before making a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding suspension of bus service.
2. Whenever school bus services are suspended by the Superintendent/ designate, schools shall remain open to all students unless announced otherwise. On scheduled Diploma Examination dates, students who arrive at school must be allowed to write the examination. Suspension of school bus services and school closures may be limited to a certain region of Elk Island Catholic Schools. All staff members are expected to report to work except when roads are impassable. If the staff member is unable to report to work they are to notify their supervisor immediately of this circumstance.
3. The Superintendent shall decide on school bus suspension before 5:00 a.m. or the previous evening if conditions are such that it is obvious that bus service should not commence.
4. Radio stations will be used to broadcast suspension of bus services from 6:00 a.m. onward. The information regarding busing services will be posted on the Division Website. As well, the main telephone message system will carry pertinent information.
5. a) When weather conditions deteriorate during the day and bus service is suspended or bus schedules require substantial alteration, announcements will be broadcast on as many radio stations as possible in the vicinity surrounding all of the schools within the Division.

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC S.R.D. NO. 41	CODE: EBCD-Guidelines
LEGAL REFERENCES: <i>School Act</i> , Section 41	TITLE: Emergency Closings (Page 2 of 2)
CROSS REFERENCE: CA, School - Based Leadership	ADOPTION DATE: February 7, 2001
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b) The principal shall communicate with each family, at the beginning of the school year, the procedures to be followed to implement this policy. The principal shall also develop a communication plan that will allow for the efficient fanning out of information.

c) If and when schools are closed prior to normal dismissal times no students shall be permitted to leave school or a school bus if contact and arrangements cannot be made with the parents/guardians.

6. The principal shall develop a contingency plan for the number of staff to be at the school for the purpose of receiving students, answering telephone inquiries, and other duties when schools have been closed. The plan shall be submitted to the Superintendent by the end of September annually.