

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND IMMINENT THREATS

The superintendent may close the district schools or dismiss them early when hazardous weather or other emergencies threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. The superintendent may delegate this authority to another staff member in the event of his/her absence.

Reporting and Action Resulting from Imminent Threats

In situations of imminent threat to the health or safety of students or school personnel the superintendent may lock down or close the district schools. Reporting requirements for imminent threat situations establish that:

1. A student who learns of any type of imminent threat on school premises that may impact the safety of students, staff or administration must immediately report such information to the building principal, teacher, the School Resource Officer or other employee in a position of authority.
2. An employee of the school unit who learns of any type of imminent threat as defined above shall immediately inform the building administrator. The building administrator shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the District's threat procedure, and inform the Superintendent of the threat.
3. All threats shall be reported immediately to the local law enforcement authority, as provided in the threat procedures.
4. Once notification of an imminent threat has been received the superintendent or building administrative staff shall execute the established threat procedures necessary for the situation. The superintendent, appropriate building principal(s), and local law enforcement will make a threat assessment and determine if any further action is necessary.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for reporting any type of threat to the Board of Education. Reports will include the name of the school, the date and time of the threat, the medium used to communicate the threat, and whether or not the perpetrators have been apprehended. If the assessment by the superintendent, building principal(s) and local law enforcement establishes that the threat has been addressed and the safety of district students is not an issue, then the decision to notify parents will be left to the discretion of the superintendent. In those situations where an occurrence may compromise the safety of district students, a notification shall be provided to affected families through means established by the district. The notification will outline the nature of the occurrence, district action, and a timeline for future notifications.

Emergency Closing Due to Weather

Schools will not be closed merely to avoid inconvenience. However, the superintendent may excuse all students from attending school, delay the opening hour, or dismiss students early. The superintendent also has the responsibility to see that administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued to the extent possible. Therefore, if conditions affect only a single school, only that school will be closed.

In making the decision to close schools, the superintendent will consider many factors, including the following principle ones that relate to the safety and health of children:

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

The superintendent will weigh these factors and take action to close the schools only after consultation with traffic and weather authorities, and the director of buildings and grounds.

Students, parents and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing.

If school is in operation and travel is not advised in the rural area; teachers and administrators should realize that rural students may be absent due to inclement weather. School work and related activities should be governed by this knowledge. If there are any concerns about this, teachers should consult with their building principals.

Postponements

Should inclement weather prohibit the operation of the public schools for any portion of a school day, all co-curricular activities will be cancelled with the exception of district or state contests (activities). In such situations, the officials responsible for such contests (activities) will decide if the contest (activity) is to take place and participation by students will be based on their decision. In such cases, the school principal will announce whether or not the contest (activity) will take place.

When the school has been closed due to the expectation of inclement weather, and the situation does not result in potentially dangerous travel conditions, the superintendent or his/her designee, after consultation with school principals, will have the authority to waive the cancellation of co-curricular activities as described in the previous paragraph.

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