

Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce

Procedures

Bluewater District School Board
Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board

TCP-B009

Procedure Title: TRANSPORTING STUDENTS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS		Approved: January 11, 2011 Updates: September 14, 2012 January 4, 2017
Related Forms:	Related Policies: BGCDSB BP8-16 Inclement Weather BWDSB AP2807 Inclement Weather	

Intent:	To define inclement weather factors, service expectations, decision responsibilities and communication protocols on days having inclement weather conditions
Stakeholders:	School, Bus Operators, Public, Transportation Consortium
Procedure:	<p><u>Inclement Weather</u></p> <p>Bus service may be cancelled when, at the discretion of the bus operator, the safety of the students, driver, or other commuters would be put at risk by operating. Operators will balance the value of the service they provide, with the risk of operating, when making a decision.</p> <p>Cancellations may be for any combination of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- poor visibility, often caused by snow, blowing snow, or fog,- poor road conditions, often caused by snow or ice,- extreme cold conditions resulting in fuel gelling, and the reliability of other diesel engine components in extreme cold weather that compromises the vehicles ability to run in extreme cold temperatures. Failure of a bus to run in extreme cold puts the safety of the riders at risk. <p><u>Service Expectations</u></p> <p>When inclement weather makes operating dangerous, buses may be cancelled. The bus operator, with input from staff, roads departments and weather forecasts will make the determination whether it is safe to operate buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buses will not be intentionally delayed in the morning.• Buses unintentionally delayed more than one hour will be cancelled.• Buses cancelled in the morning will not operate in the afternoon.• There will be no early dismissals due to inclement weather. This will prevent students from being returned home where there may not be appropriate supervision waiting.• All attempts will be made to post cancellations, delays and school closures by 6:30 a.m. Given the challenge of assessing diverse and rapidly changing weather patterns it is sometimes necessary to make a late call (after 7:00 a.m.). Parents should continue to monitor notifications up to the point their child is picked up by the bus. <p>The area serviced by STSCGB is defined by 14 school bus zones.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">01 Chesley, Tara, Desboro02 Paisley03 Port Elgin, Southampton04 Wiarton, Hepworth, Sauble05 Lion's Head, Tobermory06 Walkerton, Mildmay, Formosa, Chepstow07 Teeswater, Lucknow, Ripley08 Kincardine10 Holland Chatsworth11 Owen Sound12 Meaford, Thornbury13 Hanover, Ayton14 Durham, Holstein15 Dundalk, Flesherton, Markdale, Maxwell

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By October 25th of each year, the school administrator lead for each zone shall convene a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the Inclement Weather reporting procedures to ensure each participant understands their responsibility. Invitees will include:

- Bus Operators
- School Principals (or designate) from each school in the zone. Schools should be represented from the Bluewater District School Board and the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board
- A representative from the Transportation Consortium
- Optional – Police service, Roads Superintendents

Topics to be reviewed will be:

- All present will review the procedure for posting bus cancellations, delays and school closures on the web based BP Notification Module,
- A manual phone chain will be developed to communicate cancellations, delays and school closures in the event of power outages or other technical difficulties with the BP Notification Module,
- All present will review the General Notices function in the BP Notification Module, making necessary updates,
- Bus Operators and School Principals will ensure they have designated an alternate person to act on their behalf, when necessary,
- Principals will include an item in their school newsletters advising that bus cancellations, delays and school closure notices are available at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Cancellations.aspx>,
- Principals will inform parents which radio stations will carry announcements for your school,
- Principals will ask students and parents not to call the radio stations,
- Principals will ensure that a student billeting plan is in place in the event that buses do not return home in the afternoon,
- A copy of the meeting minutes, including the zone's cancellation plan, shall be forwarded to the Transportation Consortium by November 15th of each year. A Cancellation plan should include a phone-chain identifying each school and bus operator.

Bus cancellations, delays and school closures are posted at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. Local media have subscribed to receive email notifications each time a new notice is posted. The local media will also continue to communicate cancellations over the Radio/TV and on their web sites. Refer to: http://www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca/Local_Media for a list of local Radio/TV stations.

Parents, students and the general public can also subscribe to receive email notifications by going to: <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Subscriptions/Subscribe.aspx>

Communication of school closures will follow the same process as bus cancellations and be the responsibility of the school principal.