

Yukon Education

Policy Subject: School Closure Policy

Date Passed: November 19, 2009
Policy No. 1013

Cross Reference:
Field Trip Policy (3004)
Education Act

Principles:

Only very extreme circumstances warrant the closure of a school and this does not include cold weather.

Standards and Procedures:

1. The Department of Education staff, including school administrators and school staff, will take all precautions to ensure the safety of students during periods of extremely cold weather by way of the following provisions:
 - i. Busing contracts include provisions for spare buses and safety equipment for travel in cold weather.
 - ii. Communicating on a regular basis to remind parents of their obligations to ensuring students are properly dressed before traveling to school in cold weather.
 - iii. Ensuring that regular and effective communication strategies are in place to communicate changes to a bus schedule during periods of cold weather, or when buses are canceled.
2. In the event that a school closure is required due to a mechanical problem, a fire or other extreme reason, the Administrator must consult with the Superintendent before closing the school. This does not include situations where the Administrator must evacuate the school for an undefined period of time.
3. Upon advice from the Superintendent or the ADM of Public Schools that a school closure is required, the Minister, in consultation with the department, the administrator and school council or board, shall determine what course of action is required to recover any lost

learning time, in order to meet the requirements for hours of instruction as defined in Section 46 of the Education Act, or if any calendar revisions are required.

4. School Administrators, in consultation with School Councils may chose to develop additional polices and procedures that address day-to-day matters during extremely cold weather including temperature, ice, fog, wind and road conditions.
5. These school based policies will clarify to parents, how the school will adjust its activities during cold weather including out of doors play, the opening and closing times of a school building during cold weather, and supervision of students in the event of extended hours due to delayed buses.

Yukon Medical Health Officer and School Closures

1. Only the Chief Medical Health Officer has the authority to close schools due to health concerns.