

131 - EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Background

On rare occasions, it may be necessary to consider emergency school closure. The Division believes that the safety and lives of children and employees must be a primary concern.

Procedures

1. The decision to close a school for emergency purposes shall be made by the School Principal in consultation with the Superintendent or his/her designate. Factors which may result in closure include but are not limited to:
 - 1.1 Failure of plumbing, heating or ventilation installations of the nature likely to be detrimental to the health or safety of students or employees; and/or
 - 1.2 Any other emergency conditions likely to be detrimental to the health or safety of the students or employees
2. In the event that school closure may be necessary:
 - 2.1 The Principal shall immediately initiate steps to advise as many parents as possible, and shall keep staff and students fully informed, and shall ensure the safety of every student;
 - 2.2 The divisional office shall notify the Transportation Supervisor's office;
 - 2.3 The Transportation Supervisor's office shall contact the bus drivers and local radio stations and post to Division website under Transportation Services; and
 - 2.4 Bus drivers shall use their communication system established previously to reach as many parents/guardians as possible when buses are being sent home early and for ensuring the safety of each student.

Reference: Section 57, School Act