

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As winter approaches we again face the possibility of school closures due to inclement weather. I want to assure you that student safety is our main priority when we decide to cancel school due to the weather, or to remain open. I want to share with you the process we follow while we gather information and make these decisions. As you can imagine, this is a complex and difficult task given the number of students who must be transported to school every day across our newly amalgamated district with such vast geographic boundaries. Often, when the forecast indicates a major blizzard throughout the early morning hours, the decision is an easy one, but most of the time it is much more difficult to predict the weather events of the day and make a decision.

Every weekday morning, from now until Spring, our Transportation Manager and Assistant Transportation Manager are awake very early to address winter weather routines. In those early hours, they study various weather forecasts and speak with contacts at the Department of Transportation to assess road conditions and plans for salting/sanding. They also consult with contacts across our district (Tide Head to Rexton/Blackville) and in neighboring districts as well. The Manager in turn contacts me. Together we examine and discuss important information such as current weather and highway conditions and the forecast for the day. We consider precipitation, wind conditions, visibility, road conditions and other factors, and we make a decision prior to 6:00 AM; when many busses begin their runs. We will consider school closures by region: Campbellton/Dalhousie/Bathurst, Miramichi or Rexton depending on the forecasts for these areas.

Sometimes actual conditions are not what we anticipated, and weather conditions deteriorate quickly despite the predictions we used to make our decision. We want you to know that when this happens we are as concerned as you are, and we ask for your patience as we assess the situation and make decisions about how to safely return your children to you either through an early closure or at the end of the day.

School cancellations and late bus runs are always announced on the local radio stations and on our website. We will also post a message on our winter weather lines which can be reached at:

- 1-888-950-1919 (Campbellton-Dalhousie—Jacquet River-Bathurst)
- 778-7669 (Miramichi and Area)
- 523-0900 (Rexton)

**Please note that if schools remain open and you as a parent or guardian find the conditions in your area are not suitable for your child to travel to school, you have the right to make that decision and we will always respect your wishes. Your child will not be marked absent if you decide to keep him or her home that day. Simply note this on the excuse that you send to school the next day.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding through this challenging but very important process.

Nancy Boucher-Superintendent

