



School Closure

Due to Road or Weather Conditions

The Decision-Making Process

During the winter months the Coordinator of Transportation and Transportation and School Bus Foremen monitor the weather each evening for potential storm / weather-related conditions that may affect school bus operations the next day. Early in the morning they check road conditions and liaise with the Department of Transportation offices in Annapolis, West Hants, and Kings Counties and with various weather websites and offices.

As weather conditions may vary significantly from one end of the Valley to another, the decision to not run buses and to cancel classes for students within the AVRSB will be made by individual counties. For example, all Annapolis County schools may be closed due to bad weather on a day when the other two counties remain open as they are not experiencing that same weather.

The decision to cancel all board-provided transportation and to keep buses off the highways is made when the risk to students and drivers is judged to be too high, or may become too high, because of road or forecasted weather conditions. This decision rests with the Coordinator of Transportation and the Superintendent of Schools, and it will be made in time for 6:00 a.m. media broadcasts.

How Is the Decision Announced?

School closures or delayed openings are broadcast as follows:

Annapolis Valley Radio Network (AVR)

K-Rock 89.3

CBC-FM, Halifax (English and French)

CHFX/CHNS, Halifax

CJCH/C-100, Halifax

ATV News (Breakfast TV)

The Weather Network on cable TV

AVRSB website: www.avsrbc.ca under "Announcements"

CBC Storm Centre website: www.cbc.ca/ns/features/stormcentre/MT/education

AVR and K-Rock websites: www.avrnetwork.com or www.k-rock893.com under "Cancellations"

Regional Office switchboard at 538-4600 or 1-800-850-3887

School Bus Drivers' Discretion on Side Roads

There will be times when the numbered series highways are plowed, sanded, and salted early enough in the day to allow for safe travel of school buses; however, secondary and side roads are sometimes not cleared until later in the day. In these instances, bus drivers will use their discretion as to whether or not they are able to safely access these roads to pick up students or not. If not, they will advise the dispatcher that they are unable to do so.



Early Closure Due to Impending or Worsening Weather

When weather changes are predicted, the Coordinator of Transportation continues to liaise with Department of Transportation offices across the AVRSB region throughout the day. The Coordinator of Transportation and Superintendent will decide if the operation of school buses will be affected by weather change, and if it will be necessary to dismiss schools early. If it is necessary to operate buses earlier than their normal schedule, schools will initiate procedures appropriate to their grade levels. Announcements are immediately broadcast over the radio networks and at www.avrsb.ca.

Student Safety is Our First Priority

The decision to cancel or change school schedules during the day is taken very seriously. With approximately 90% of AVRSB students traveling by school bus, road safety is of utmost importance. AVRSB recognizes the inconvenience and appreciates what is required of parents/guardians in making alternate plans as a result of these changes, as well as their concern regarding the loss of instructional time.

Dealing With Wind Chill



Wind chill is the combined effect of temperature and wind. On occasion, the weather and wind chill will be sufficient to increase the risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Students should come to school appropriately dressed, which includes dressing in warm layers as well as a hat, gloves/mittens, scarf, and a coat.

Following is a guideline for avoiding wind-related injuries:

- 0 to -20 Wind Chill: Care should be taken in assessing the appropriateness of sending students outside. See factors below.
- -21 to -27 Wind Chill: Serious consideration should be given to whether it is appropriate for students to be outside. See factors below.
- Below -27 Wind Chill: Students should not go outside during the school day.

Aside from wind chill, there are other important factors to consider:

1. Whether students are appropriately dressed (hat, gloves/mittens, scarf, warm clothing).
2. How long the students will be outside.
3. Activity level (for heat generation) when outside.
4. Exposure to the wind.