

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE BOARD POLICY

SUPPORT SERVICES

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

723.3

~~It is important for school to be in session on regularly scheduled school days so teaching and learning can take place. The School Board recognizes however, that this may not always be possible. There may be times when it is necessary to close school temporarily to protect the health and safety of students and staff and for other emergency reasons.~~

~~The District Administrator or designee is authorized to close the district schools, to delay or dismiss students early, to suspend transportation services, and release staff in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that threaten the health or safety of students and staff.~~

~~School closings, delayed starts or early dismissals may be considered under the following conditions:~~

- ~~1) Snow, ice, high winds and severe drifting. This includes both existing and predicted conditions.~~
- ~~2) Severe Cold. This is defined as -20 degrees F temperature threshold and -30 degrees F wind chill threshold.~~
- ~~3) Severe Heat: This is defined above 95 degrees F temperature and/or above 105 degrees F heat index (combination of heat and humidity).~~

~~(Note: The threshold limits for both cold and heat are points at which the closing of school will be considered in conjunction with other relevant factors and conditions that might be present. The threshold levels are not automatic. Schools may or may not be closed because of severe cold and heat depending upon all factors that need to be considered and the District Administrator's decision.)~~

- ~~4) Heavy absenteeism due to widespread, ongoing illness.~~
- ~~5) Other factors: Failure of utilities (gas, electricity, water, sewer service), severe damage to a school building, or other reasons as deemed necessary by the District Administrator.~~

~~Students, staff, and parents/guardians shall be informed of the procedures that shall be used to notify them in case of emergency closings.~~

~~All after school activities, including practices, shall be canceled in the event the District closes school because of inclement weather or emergency situations, unless the District Administrator or designee has granted permission to allow these functions to occur.~~

~~Cancelled school days shall be made up in accordance to state law requirements and applicable collective bargaining agreement language.~~

The District Administrator, or an administrative-level designee in the temporary absence or unavailability of the District Administrator, shall make decisions regarding school closings, delayed starts, early releases, and any program or activity cancellations due to inclement weather or due to other health or safety concerns. Examples of other health or safety concerns include a communicable disease outbreak, a credible threat to safety, or a utility failure.

In certain circumstances, a decision to close school due to a health or safety concern for a full or partial day may

apply only to one or more individual schools. In such a situation, the applicable building principal or a designee who is currently in charge of the supervision and operation of the facility has the authority to make such a decision if it is impractical to consult with the District Administrator on a timely basis.

If any District school is closed by an order of a local health officer or by an order of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the administration shall implement the order.

When any District school is closed under this policy for a reason other than inclement weather, the administration shall ensure that the Department of Public Instruction is promptly notified of the closing and reopening of the school(s) and of the reason(s) for the closure(s).

Make-Up Days/Hours for Students

When any District school has been closed for a full or partial day under this policy and scheduled instructional time has been lost, additional school days or extended hours for students will not be added to the school calendar/schedule unless at least one of the following applies:

1. Additional instructional time is required to meet a state or federal requirement;
2. A specific procedure or standard for making up days or hours was incorporated into the school calendar/schedule that was adopted for the school year in question; or
3. Such an adjustment is otherwise directed or approved by the School Board.

Before-School and After-School Activities and Programs

When any District school is closed for a full or partial day due to inclement weather:

1. For a delayed start, all before-school activities and programs at the affected schools shall be cancelled for the day. After-school and evening activities and programs will be held as scheduled unless specifically cancelled by a separate announcement.
2. For an early release, all after-school and evening activities and programs that were scheduled to take place at the affected school(s) shall normally be cancelled for the day, except that the administration shall clearly specify any exceptions in the announcement(s) of the early release (e.g., for an after-school child care program).
3. When District schools have been closed for the full day due to inclement weather, all before-school activities and programs shall be cancelled for the day. After-school and evening activities and programs shall also normally be cancelled for the day, except that any exceptions shall be approved by the District Administrator or his/her designee and expressly identified in a notice or announcement as early in the day as practicable. An exception to hold an after-school or evening event on such a day should only be made if weather conditions have substantially improved, the administration determines that there is a strong justification for holding the event, and affected persons can reasonably be notified of the decision to hold the event.

The standards listed immediately above for inclement weather situations apply to all District-sponsored activities and programs involving students, all community education and community recreation activities or programs that are scheduled to take place at a District facility, and to all previously-approved third-party use of District facilities.

When a school building or other District facility is closed for a reason other than inclement weather, the holding of previously-scheduled activities and programs shall be addressed by the administration on a case-by-case basis. In addition, regardless of whether school was held for students on a particular day, the administration may decide to cancel any District-sponsored activity or program, or any event that is scheduled to take place at a District-controlled

facility, in order to address a concern with health or safety or with the condition of specific property.

This policy does not address or apply to the cancellation of School Board meetings or meetings of Board committees.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 115.01(10) [school days and school closings due to inclement weather or other conditions affecting health or safety]

Section 118.07 [school safety plans]

Section 120.12(27) [duty to notify the department of public instruction of certain school closures]

Section 121.02(1)(f) [standards for annual hours of instruction]

Section 252.02(3) [authority of public health officials to close schools to control outbreaks and epidemics]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

PI 8.01(2)(f) [standards for annual hours of instruction]

PI 8.01(4) [criteria for waivers from required hours of instruction]

First Reading: May 10, 2009

Adopted: June 10, 2009

First Reading of Updates: July 11, 2018

Second Reading/Approval: August 13, 2018