

## **RE: FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE TO WEATHER**

The District recognizes the unpredictability associated with the weather and other unforeseen emergencies. *With that being said, all students, parents and school employees should assume that school will be in session and buses will be running as scheduled unless there is official notification from the Superintendent to the contrary.*

To achieve the maximum safety for all children and the efficiency of operations, the Superintendent may order the:

- Cancellation of some or all bus routes
- Delay of some or all bus routes
- Closure of school(s)
- Delay of school start
- Early dismissal of school



In making these decisions, the District believes that in most cases, schools are the safest places for students to be. The District also believes that school buses are very safe for children to be in - they are heavy, well maintained and driven by well-trained and qualified individuals. It is also important to note that the closure of school is a serious decision and one that is rarely made. The District will, however, take into account the following:

- The time of day of the weather or emergency keeping in mind 7:00 am classes, the 6:45 am HANDS hours, early practices, etc.;
- The weather forecast as provided by NOAA;
- The condition of the buildings (are they heated, are there lights, are they habitable, etc.);
- The number, if any, of other businesses and entities that are closed as many parents work in these businesses. The District feels that it is safer for students to be supervised in school instead of left home alone due to parent work schedules;
- The ability of staff to get to work;
- That students arrive at and return from school via a variety of means: bus (25%), parents driving, students driving and walking;
- The recommendations of the City County Health Department, if any; and
- What is best for most students.

Parents are the final authority as to whether or not they believe it is safe for their child to get to school. If parents believe that it is too cold or the snow is too deep or the weather is too unsettled, their decision may be to keep your child home. **Parents have the right and responsibility to make attendance decisions for their children based on individual circumstances.** Parents should notify their student's school as they would for any other absence. The absence may be excused and for high school students, it may not count against attendance incentives.