



Section Inclement Weather Bus Cancellations	Page 1 of 5
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<p>Statement</p>	<p>The decision to cancel school transportation is the responsibility of the school bus operators in conjunction with the Manager of Transportation.</p> <p>When transportation services are cancelled, the schools remain open. If a bus route or transportation services are cancelled in the morning, buses may still operate in the afternoon.</p> <p>Given the vast geography of the district, inclement weather may vary from area to area.</p> <p>Ultimately, it is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians to decide if they want their child(ren) to attend school on inclement weather days. If bus transportation is cancelled, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide transportation.</p> <p>When home to school transportation is cancelled all field trips will be cancelled as well.</p>
<p>Procedures:</p>	<p><u>Prior to School Opening Time – Extreme Cold</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The decision to cancel transportation for the morning due to extreme cold temperatures shall be made based on the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current temperature is -35 without the windchill or colder and the • Forecasted temperature is expected to drop within 2 hours (6am to 8am local time) <p>The decision to operate in the afternoon will be based on the forecasted temperature of -35 without the windchill or warmer by 12:00p.m. local time. This decision will be made using the best information available at the time.</p> <p>If the temperature is not forecast to improve by 12:00p.m. local time, the decision will be to cancel the route for the day.</p> <p>All decisions to cancel routes must be made by 6:00a.m. local time.</p> 2. It is the responsibility of the Operators to contact their designated Liaison Officer with cancellation information.



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<p>Procedures continued:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. After the Liaison Officer has received route decisions on all the routes in his/her area, one phone call will be made by the Liaison Officer to the local radio stations, if necessary, to cancel routes in that area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ B93 (Fort Frances) Phone: (807) 274-5341 ➤ CKPR 93.5 (Atikokan) Phone: (807) 346-2600 ➤ KQ92 (Warroad) Phone: (218) 386-3024 4. The Operator or Liaison Officer(s) will then notify the RRDTSC by 6:15a.m. local time of any cancellations. 5. The RRDTSC staff will update the RRDTSC website, blog and social media sites to inform the public as to which routes are cancelled. 6. All families must be contacted directly by the operator/drivers with cancellation information.
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<p>Procedures continued:</p>	<p><u>Prior to School Opening Time – Blizzard/Visibility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The decision to cancel transportation due to inclement weather shall be made based on information from Environment Canada, OPP, MTO and local road superintendents from the Rainy River District. 2. Bus operators may implement a 2-hour delay prior to starting the route to allow time for snow plowing services within the district. The 2-hour delay will be communicated amongst the bus operators, RRDTSC & local radio stations. Connecting bus routes must agree to the 2-hour delay to keep the route system operating efficiently. <p>The decision to operate in the afternoon will be based on the forecasted conditions. This decision will be made using the best information available at the time.</p> <p>If the conditions are not forecasted to improve by 12:00p.m. local time, the decision will be made to cancel the route for the day.</p> <p>All decisions to delay and/or cancel routes must be made by 6:00a.m. local time.</p> 3. It is the responsibility of the Operators to contact their designated Liaison Officer with cancellation or delay information.
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Procedures continued:	<p>4. After the Liaison Officer has received route decisions on all the routes in his/her area, one phone call will be made by the Liaison Officer to the local radio stations, if necessary, to cancel or delay routes in that area.</p> <p>B93 (Fort Frances) Phone: (807) 274-5341 CKPR 93.5 (Atikokan) Phone: (807) 346-2600 KQ92 (Warroad) Phone: (218) 386-3024</p> <p>5. The Operator or Liaison Officer(s) will then notify the RRDTSC as soon as possible by 6:15a.m. local time of any delays or cancellations.</p> <p>6. The RRDTSC staff will update the RRDTSC website, blog and social media sites to inform the public as to which routes are cancelled and/or delayed.</p> <p>7. All families must be contacted directly by the operator/drivers with delay or cancellation information.</p> <p><u>While in Transit – Deteriorating Conditions</u></p> <p>1. The RRDTSC recognizes the need for driver instruction where a bus begins the student pick-up and must cancel without full completion of the run due to unsafe and/or deteriorating driving conditions. If this situation does occur the driver will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stop the bus, parking in a safe location. ➤ Notify the Liaison Officer <p>2. The Liaison Officer will notify the RRDTSC immediately.</p> <p>3. The Liaison Officer will contact the students' parents/guardians advising of location of pick-up.</p> <p>4. The driver will wait on board with students to ensure their safety.</p> <p>5. Students are not permitted to leave the bus without their respective guardian or designated caregiver. For rural home stops, the driver may return the student to the residence if the school/liaison officer is able to contact and receive approval from a parent or guardian present at the home.</p>
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Procedures continued:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>After Students are in School – Early Dismissal</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The bus contractors/drivers will advise whether, in their opinion, conditions are worsening or are unsafe for transportation of students. They will then contact the RRDTSC Office with their request.2. Drivers shall monitor their radios and ensure that their buses are fuelled and ready for transportation.3. After the Liaison Officer has received route recommendations on all the routes in his/her area, he/she will call the RRDTSC Office with a recommendation for the designated area.4. The Transportation Officer, based on information gathered from drivers, MTO, Principals and weather stations, shall consult with the Manager of Transportation who will then consult with the Director of the Boards, or his/her designate whether to send buses home early.5. The RRDTSC staff, shall contact Principals co-ordinating a dismissal time relative to regular dismissal time. This dismissal time needs to allow a minimum 1.5 hours lead time to allow for parents to be contacted.6. Principals or designates will notify parents or emergency contacts. If no satisfactory drop-off place is found for a student, the student is to remain at the school.7. The RRDTSC staff will contact Operators/Liaison Officers with their revised dismissal times. Operators/Liaison Officers will call contractors and drivers in their area until all buses are notified.8. The RRDTSC staff will contact the appropriate radio stations and provide them with a precise statement as to which buses are departing early:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• B93 (Fort Frances) – Central & East <i>Phone: (807) 274-5341 Fax: (807) 274-2033</i>• CKPR 93.5 (Atikokan) <i>Phone: (907) 346-2600</i>• KQ92 (Warroad)- Far West <i>Phone: (218) 386-3024 Fax: (218) 386-3090</i>
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Procedures continued:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Early dismissal information will be posted on the RRDTSC website/blog and social media sites.10. Couchiching, Nigigoonsiminikaaning, Seine River, and Mitaanjigamiing, Manitou, Naicatchewenin, Big Island, and Big Grassy buses will be notified by the RRDTSC staff, where possible, to co-ordinate radio message and departure times.11. Schools will have departing students ready to leave at the appropriate designated time. Town students who ride on rural buses may be expected to depart early on the regular routes. <p>The RRDTSC staff will be responsible for the following during all inclement weather:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Check and assess the temperatures in all areas where buses travel using Environment Canada’s temperatures by 5:30a.m.2. Receive confirmation by 6:15a.m. from the Operator/Liaison Officer of each division on whether buses will be delayed/cancelled.3. Post the inclement weather announcement to the RRDTSC website, blog and social media sites by 6:30a.m. local time. These sites are designed to inform the public and subscribers to the blog of the decision to delay/cancel buses in a timely manner.4. Notify via email all schools and members of the Management Committee of delays and cancellations. <p>The Principal or designate will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be available to receive the inclement weather bus delay/cancellation call from the Liaison Officer and/or email from RRDTSC.
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