

## Weather-related closures, class cancellations & delayed openings

In addition to educating children, schools are expected to provide safe, supervised environments. Any cancellation, closure or delayed school opening has a significant impact on tens of thousands of families. Most cannot arrange alternate childcare when classes are cancelled or schools are closed unexpectedly.

Consequently, schools will not routinely be closed due to snow or other weather conditions unless there is damage or other circumstances (e.g., power outage) at a particular school that makes it impossible to operate safely. **No announcement will be made that schools are open; only cancellations, closures or delayed school openings will be announced.**

- **The district supports individual and family decisions regarding safety.** Student and staff safety are a priority of the school district. Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for their children's safe travel to school and staff members also decide if local conditions may be unsafe. If, for any reason, there are personal concerns about the ability to travel safely to school, other arrangements should be made. It is understood some students travel to school on routes that may be challenging on a snow day; therefore, **no student will be penalized for lack of attendance because of such conditions.** While schools are likely to be kept open, **the decision to attend is the responsibility of each family.** Parents can phone or email the school to notify staff a student won't be attending. **Weather-related student absences will be excused.**
- **Some schools may announce a delayed opening time.** The delayed opening time will be announced on the district website and through the media. The delay would be to allow more time to address potential issues such as a power outage or staff access to the school.
- **The district will do its best to communicate the status of schools beginning at about 7 a.m., when possible.** Weather, power, road and safety conditions can change substantially within a few hours, therefore assessments and decisions are made early in the morning so the information is more reliable.
- **Closures or delayed school openings will be announced, otherwise, schools are open.**

### **Busing**

Regular and special needs school bus schedules may face significant changes or cancellation due to weather conditions. Changes/cancellations will be reported through the district website and news media.

### **Announcement of closures or delayed openings**

In the event of class cancellations or delayed school openings, the Surrey School District will post information at [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca), tweet on @Surrey\_Schools and provide updates to news media.

Class cancellation/delayed opening information may also be broadcast on local TV station newscasts. **Please do not call the radio stations** as staff is very busy receiving updates and preparing newscasts.

**Please do not call the schools and district offices.** Calling schools and district offices is also impractical since staff members are generally not available to answer telephone calls far in advance of regular school opening time and phone lines typically become congested in any event.