

## OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

### Background

Student safety is always our top priority. On occasion, this will entail making decisions regarding outdoor activities.

Decisions regarding outdoor activities should take into consideration inclement weather that may result from the following condition(s):

- a. Continuous rain;
- b. Extreme wind;
- c. Extreme cold;
- d. Compromised air quality
- e. Other severe conditions.

### Procedures

#### Outdoor Breaks at School: Extreme Cold

1. The expectation for students to remain indoors is when the temperature is -25 degrees Celsius or colder, or when the temperature and wind chill factor are -25 degrees Celsius or colder. The source used for determining the local temperature shall be Environment Canada via the [WeatherCAN](#) app.
2. Each school is expected to have procedures in place to be used during inclement weather for:
  - a. Students arriving at the beginning of the day that includes the student's ability to enter school when inclement weather affects student safety and well-being;
  - b. Front entry door or student designated door must be opened 20 minutes prior to start time and 20 minutes after dismissal bell. The location of this entry door must be communicated to all parents and students.
  - c. Communicating to parents and students the exact times in the morning that school entry doors are unlocked;
  - d. Communicating to students that they are to re-enter the school at the end of the day if their transportation homeward is unavailable or delayed (i.e. late bus, missed bus, not picked up by parent or sibling);
  - e. Handling parental requests for students to remain indoors during recess;
  - f. Handing students who are identified as underdressed for the weather.

3. The Principal shall ensure that the “Outside Activities Procedures for Inclement Weather” and the school’s specific inclement weather protocols are periodically communicated with parents through their communication networks (i.e. newsletters, school messenger).

### **Other Types of Inclement Weather**

1. When faced with variables that include continuous rain, extreme wind, compromised air quality or other severe conditions the principal shall use discretion based upon the impact of these conditions on student safety and comfort.
  - If necessary, Division emergency protocols may be enacted.
  - In the event of compromised air quality, the Principal will consult The Government of Canada Air Quality Health Index page for their geographical area.
    - Principals will use discretion when allowing students to go outside based on duration of time outside and level of activity.

### **Off-Site Activities (Field Trips)**

1. When temperatures reach -20 degrees Celsius or colder including the wind-chill factor, it is recommended that any outdoor-based off-site activities, where students are required to spend extended time outdoors, be postponed or cancelled. When temperatures reach -25 degrees Celsius these activities must be cancelled or postponed.

Note: a school may choose to postpone or cancel at a temperature warmer than this number depending on the activity or age of the students and other prevailing weather conditions.

2. Off-Site Activities to indoor destinations within the Greater St. Albert area and City of Edmonton can go ahead as long as the school has appropriately addressed foreseeable transportation hazards including appropriate dress for students should there be a need to wait for a replacement bus if a break-down occurs.

The difference in the temperature threshold for off-site activities is based on an understanding that students are taught about appropriate layering principles and adequate clothing for handling outdoor activity conditions.

The Teacher-in-Charge must be familiar with appropriate provisions for off-site activities, communicate expectations to students and parents, and be prepared to cancel a student’s participation in an event if they are not adequately prepared.

### **Field trip travel is not allowed when:**

- A blizzard, blowing snow, dust storm, extreme cold, flash freeze, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, hurricane, rainfall, severe thunderstorm, snow squall, tornado, wind,

or winter storm warning has been issued by Environment Canada for areas along the route being travelled or at the destination.

([http://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index\\_e.html?prov=ab](http://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=ab)) OR;

- The RCMP has issued a Travel Advisory for any portion of the planned route OR;
- Road conditions are rated as "closed" for any portion of the planned route on Alberta Transportation's Road Reports site: <http://511.alberta.ca>.
- Reference: [Administrative Procedure 132 - Inclement Weather](#)

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