

# ***Dell Rapids School District #49-3***



## **Policies and Regulations Code: EBCD-R – Support Services**

### **Emergency School Closings and Cancellations**

The Superintendent is authorized to close schools, dismiss them early, or delay the opening hour in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. While it may be prudent under certain circumstances to excuse all students from attending school, to delay the opening, or to dismiss students early, the administration has the responsibility to see that as much of the administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued as may be possible. Therefore, if conditions affect only a single school, only that school may be closed.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent or designee will consider many factors relating to the safety and health of children. Conditions which prompt consideration to close schools could be:

1. Weather conditions, both existing and predicted.
2. Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition that would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous.
3. Inability of teaching personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.

When a severe storm hits the area or is forecasted, the Superintendent or designee will begin the decision making process. Contacts will be made with the Weather Bureau, city and county road crews, and the District's bus contractor will be consulted as to the company's capability to staff its buses and navigate the roads.

Students, parents and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closings. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with Board policy in reporting to work.

If school is in operation and the buses do not operate in the rural areas, teachers and administrators should realize that rural students are absent, not because of their choosing, and school work and related activities should be governed by this knowledge. If there are any concerns about this, teachers should consult with their building principals.

#### **Parent/Student/Staff Notification of Closings**

When an emergency confronts the schools, notification of the closing of schools will be broadcast over local radio, TV Stations, and the District's web site [www.dr-k12.org](http://www.dr-k12.org). All employees are responsible for listening to appropriate announcements on days of inclement weather.

Should the schools have to be dismissed early during the day because of a developing storm, announcements will also be made over the above-mentioned stations. Such notifications will refer to dismissal at "1:00 PM" or "2:30 PM."

Parents and teachers are requested not to call the schools for general information because calling the offices ties up the telephone lines that may be needed for emergency communications.

**Postponements**

Should inclement weather prohibit the operation of the public schools for any portion of a school day, all co-curricular activities will be cancelled with the exception of district, region or state contests (activities). In such situations, the officials responsible for such contests (activities) will decide if the contest (activity) is to take place and participation by students will be based on their decision. In such cases, the school principal will announce whether or not the contest (activity) will take place.

**Staff Responsibilities If There is a School Closing**

When schools are closed because of inclement weather, all administrators are expected to report to work unless directed otherwise by the Superintendent. Other twelve month staff are expected to report to work unless directed otherwise by the Superintendent.

LEGAL REF.: SDCL 13-8-39  
SDCL 13-10-2  
SDCL 13-26-2

Adopted: November 9, 2009