

SECTION: Operations

CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE: Emergency Weather Procedures
and Emergency Procedures for
Closing Schools

ADOPTED: December 5, 1966

REVISED: November 10, 2005

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803	<p>POLICY RE EMERGENCY WEATHER PROCEDURES</p> <p>The purpose of this bulletin is to supply all employees and students with a general statement of rules and regulations to govern EMERGENCY WEATHER conditions (generally winter) as they apply to bus transportation and school sessions.</p> <p>It is <u>not</u> intended that the provisions of this bulletin should apply to light falls of snow or other obviously temporary highway conditions. They are governed by a policy that it is better to arrive safely in bad weather than to arrive on time. They are also governed by a policy which determines cancellations for the schools in the Catsauqua Area School District, <u>NOT</u> conditions or decisions appropriate to other or nearby school systems.</p> <p>If weather conditions are such that it would be hazardous to start school at the normal time; it may be the decision of the administration to start school one or two hours later than the normal scheduled time, instead of canceling school for the entire day. This announcement will be made in the same way as described below.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37</p>
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NEEDS FOR CLOSING SCHOOLS

Emergencies necessitating the closing of schools may be caused by any one or more of the following: Excessive snowfall, freezing rain or sleet creating highway and power line hazards; excessive rainfall and flooding conditions; hurricanes, tornados, etc.; abnormally low temperatures which may cause heating plant breakdowns, bus failures, etc.; national emergencies arising from attack by an enemy; others.

MORNING POLICIES

Official public announcements in the early morning hours concerning school cancellations will be started, as often as feasible, by 5:30 A.M. over the following media stations:

WFMZ-69, WAEB, WLEV, WCTO, WODE, WNEP-TV, KYW 1060, Morning

Call, and the Catsauqua Area School District website

The cancellation announcement will be carried at intervals for whatever total period, after 6:00 A.M., as in consistent with radio station policy.

All morning school cancellations will be on a day-by-day basis, unless the radio announcement specifies otherwise.

The absence of a morning radio announcement will mean that our schools will be in session, regardless of what other school systems will announce.

When severe conditions so justify, morning cancellations will also announce over the late evening radio broadcasts.

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SCHOOL DAY POLICIES

There will be public radio/TV announcements of early dismissals occasioned by severe weather conditions or other emergency conditions that may arise suddenly after school has opened.

Announcement of such dismissals will be made, upon decisions, by the Superintendent or his designee, to individual principals of each school. Bus drivers will be called in like manner by the Superintendent or his designee. Parent procedures for children to follow should be worked out by each family so that each child knows what to do or where to go, if the parents are absent from the home.

On early dismissal occasions, staff members will be required to remain at their respective buildings until released by the building principal at the direction of the Superintendent.

On late start occasions, staff members shall report to their respective buildings as a time adjusted by the identified late start time, unless requested otherwise by the building principal at the direction of the Superintendent. Bargaining Unit Members will be required to fulfill the contractually obligated number of work days as defined by the current Bargaining Unit Agreement, unless directed by the Superintendent otherwise.

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

These materials assume that good judgment and good faith by all personnel shall seek the safety and welfare of all students as the primary goal of these procedures and practices.

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It is assumed that the decision-making judgment by the administrator shall actually be a collective judgment.

It is not assumed that all such judgments shall be infallible and faultless. NO human being, including the U.S. Weather Bureau, has yet developed infallibility concerning nature’s weather.

Days, which are lost through school cancellations, will be rescheduled, if necessary, by the issuance of a revised school calendar for the year. The annual school calendar has been planned for a total school year’s work.

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