



Sunrise School Division

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January 17, 2008

To Parents, guardians, and staff:

During the winter of 2006-2007, we experienced a number of days in which a decision to close was made, or strongly considered. In March 2007, I asked the community for feedback with regards to our procedures. The overwhelming response was in agreement with our procedures. That said, I did indicate that we would make several changes to improve our procedures as well as take into consideration changing realities. Proposed changes / modifications are as follows:

Cold Weather

Previously, we would suspend bus operations if the temperature reaches -35°C or *any* combination of temperature and wind chill to equal -45°C .

Now, we will strongly consider suspending bus operations due to cold weather *if the temperature is -35°C together with a wind chill to -45° or more.*

Reasons:

1. We will run our buses if we believe they will run dependably. As our bus fleet has been modernized in the past three years, we are finding that the challenge is colder temperatures, not wind chill, especially over multiple days.
2. Wind chill and cold weather also presents a problem for getting children safely to and from the bus. Decision making in this regard needs to be with parents and guardians. *If parents and guardians determine that they cannot safely get their children to and from the bus (or directly to school), then they need to keep their children at home or make alternate arrangements.*
3. Consideration to close schools may also be given if either the temperature or the wind chill significantly surpasses these levels, or there are other extenuating circumstances as determined by the Superintendent and Transportation Supervisor.

When buses are not running, schools are closed to students.

Notification:

Previously we depended on Environment Canada, however, they do not have weather stations within the boundaries of the division. To provide more accurate readings, we are currently building weather stations at our five high schools. We will be able to close the entire division or close sites based upon the following groupings:

Location of weather station	Areas	Environment Canada 'back up' station
Springfield Collegiate	Springfield area schools	Winnipeg Airport
Edward Schreyer	Beausejour schools, Greenwald Colony, Grafton Colony, and Gillis	Winnipeg Airport
Powerview	Powerview	Victoria Beach
Lac du Bonnet	Lac du Bonnet schools and Springwell Colony	Pinawa
Whitemouth	Whitemouth, Whiteshell Colony, and Reynolds	Pinawa

As of today, the SCI and ESS stations are operational and readings can be obtained at the '*Sunrise Weather*' link at www.sunrisesd.ca. You will be able to see 'just in time' weather information, including forecasts, for each of the stations listed. Decisions to close will be based upon readings at these sites. If for some reason they are down, we will use the back up weather stations indicated above. We will make our decision based upon conditions at 6:30 am or as late as 6:45 am when it is a close call.

Notification will be made through the following:

'News' section at www.sunrisesd.ca, CBC Radio, CJOB Radio, QXFM, the divisional main line at 204-268-6500 and our phone trees.

If you have questions, please contact me at 268-6507 or dbrothers@sunrisesd.ca.

Duane Brothers- Superintendent