

## EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

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

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent will consider many factors, including the following principle ones relating to the fundamental concern for the safety and health of students:

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.
4. Driving, traffic, and parking conditions affecting public and private transportation facilities.

On days when students from schools are dismissed early, the building Administrator will determine when professional staff may leave given that the priority of the students at the school will always be first.

The Superintendent will weigh these factors and take action to close the schools only after consultation with public works and public safety authorities and with school officials from neighboring towns. 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 administrative directives in reporting for work.

On days when schools are closed because of inclement weather or other emergencies, administrators, teachers, and staff members except those who work only on teacher work days are required to report as soon as they are able to do so. If the administrator or staff member elects to use the day as a non-work/non-pay, annual leave, or personal day, s/he must inform the Superintendent or the immediate supervisor in the morning on the day the school is closed.

Source: MASC

Legal References:

- M.G.L. 71:4; 71:4A

School Committee Approved as Amended 3-22-10