

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Transportation Procedure 042 Inclement Weather/Emergency Closings	Effective: 9/1/2015
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Inclement Weather/Emergency Closings

Inclement weather or other emergencies may require the temporary cancellation of transportation services or cause delays or changes due to the nature of the emergency. In the event of cancellation or delays:

1. The Superintendent or his/her designee will make a reasonable effort to declare a calamity day as soon as practicable.
2. Emergency closings and closings/delays due to inclement weather will be communicated through the Board web site and WHBC AM 1480 and WEWS Channel 5 Cleveland.
3. The Blackboard Connect System will be used to inform staff of the calamity day.
4. Any School or workshop closings, delays, or early dismissals that occur after a bus has left the Bus Garage will be relayed to the driver via 2-way radio. Pertinent instructions, based on the situation, will be given as needed by the Manager of Transportation.
5. All Supported Employment Staff will follow their department Delay and Closing Procedures. If an employee believes he /she cannot commute safely, the employee is required to notify their supervisor.

Transportation will use a three-part system to make the determination on whether to close schools and workshops due to inclement weather:

1. Road surface conditions
2. Visibility
3. Actual air temperature as it relates to the National Weather Service Wind-Chill Chart.

This assessment will be completed by the Manager of Transportation/Designee no later than 5:30 am unless circumstances prevent such a decision.

Common sense dictates that if the majority of roads are iced over with little opportunity to salt before buses run their routes, buildings will be closed regardless of temperature and visibility. In the same way, if roads are clear and dry, but visibility is under a quarter of a mile in a sustained manner, buildings will close regardless of the temperature.

Closing buildings based on temperature is the most difficult. Factors such as length of routes, availability of spare buses on an immediate basis, and temperatures moderating throughout the day will all be weighed in determining a building closure.

Wind chill temperatures will be evaluated based on the NWS wind-chill chart. If morning wind-chill temperatures fall in the frostbite zones, buildings will be closed.

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In the likelihood that severe weather will be a problem for transportation in the afternoon, an evaluation of the situation will be conducted by 11:00 am. If closure is recommended, all sites will be notified by 12:00 pm. At that time, managers will be informed of the expected arrival times for buses.

All Supported Employment staff will follow delay and closing procedures as outlined by the General Manager of Supported Employment.

Ref: Board Policy 4.24 Delays, Early dismissals, and Closing Announcements