

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The Superintendent may close the schools, delay school opening or dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that 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 hour or to dismiss students early, the Superintendent has the responsibility to see that as much of the administrative, supervisory and operational activities continue as may be possible. Therefore, if conditions affect only a single school, only that school will be closed. The Superintendent will follow the administrative procedures to call off one school.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent will consider many factors, including the following:

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

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/guardian 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 canceled, delayed or dismissed early for emergency reasons, the Superintendent will follow the administrative procedures in notifying staff and parents/guardians.

(Replaces Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal Procedures Policy)

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:4; 71:4A

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