



Inclement Weather

Board Received: May 27, 2019 Review Date: June 2023

Policy Statement

The health and safety of all students and employees of the Grand Erie District School Board is a priority at all times. Therefore, inclement weather may occasionally result in the cancellation of transportation services or the early dismissal of schools.

Accountability

1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
2. Criteria for Success
 - Safety issues addressed
 - Clear guidelines for transportation
 - Continued cost-effectiveness
 - Clear communication present

Procedures for Cancellation of Transportation Services

To minimize the disruption of service and possible danger on such days, the following procedures will apply.

1. Safety

- a) Since determining “safety” under adverse weather conditions is difficult and at times subjective, principals will inform parents/guardians by the school’s regular communication means, by the end of October, that it is the parent’s/guardian’s responsibility at all times to decide whether or not it is safe for their children to attend school, as they would at any other time.
- b) The decision to cancel transportation services shall be made prior to 6:30 a.m., STSBHN will broadcast the decision to users via their subscribed notification email. The decision will also be posted on the Board’s website (granderie.ca) and social media as well as shared with local media **by 6:30 a.m. where possible.**

2. School Zones

- a) Weather conditions may require that transportation services be cancelled in specific zones. For the purpose of inclement weather decisions, the Board shall be divided into four zones. The four zones include: Norfolk County (Zone 1), Haldimand County (Zone 2), County of Brant (Zone 3) and the City of Brantford (Zone 4). The letter to parents/guardians will inform them of the zone number and name that their child(ren)’s school(s) are in. The cancelled zone name(s) will be posted on the Board’s website (www.granderie.ca), communicated through social media and shared with local media. School names will not be announced. The weather may cause more than one zone to be affected.
- b) The zone numbers and names with the schools are listed in Appendix ‘A’. The Appendix is subject to periodic updates as required to align with school openings, closings or zone modifications.

3. Early Dismissal for Inclement Weather

- a) Early dismissal will occur only in extreme circumstances. The decision to have students transported home early will be made by 12:00 noon and the information shall be posted on the Board website (www.granderie.ca), communicated through social media and shared with local media.
- b) When it is necessary to dismiss early, parents/guardians (or alternate emergency contacts) of students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and parents/guardians (or alternate emergency contacts) of Secondary students under 18 years of age will be contacted, unless the school has previously made alternate arrangements with parents/guardians. If no contact can be made before buses leave, students will remain at school until parents have been contacted and they have made arrangements to pick up their children. Adequate staff will remain at school to provide supervision. Elementary schools will be responsible for developing an appropriate process for early dismissal.

4. Cancellation of Transportation Services Only

- a) In the following circumstances, transportation will be cancelled (by zone) **but schools and facilities will remain open:**

The outdoor air temperature, without wind-chill, is at or below -30 degrees Celsius, as of 5:00 AM, on the Environment Canada website in:

- Simcoe, ON for Zone 1
- Haldimand County, ON for Zone 2
- Brantford, ON for Zones 3 and 4

The Environment Canada Wind Chill Chart, as of 5:45AM on the Environment Canada website, indicates a high risk of frostbite to occur in 10 minutes or less in:

- Simcoe, ON for Zone 1
- Haldimand County, ON for Zone 2
- Brantford, ON for Zones 3 and 4

- b) The decision to cancel transportation services shall be posted on the Board website (www.granderie.ca), communicated through social media and shared with local media.

5. Cancellation of Transportation Services Triggering Closures

- a) Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) Manager shall gather information on road and weather conditions from various sources and contacts and discuss conditions with the Superintendent of Business. The decision to cancel transportation services will be made by the Superintendent of Business and the STSBHN Manager. The decision to cancel transportation will be made when:
 - i. The forecasted road conditions during the travel time when students are on board are believed to not allow for the safe provision of services,
 - ii. Visibility is anticipated to be significantly impacted during the travel time when students are on board.
- b) The decision to cancel transportation services shall be posted on the Board website (www.granderie.ca), communicated through social media and shared with local media.
- c) When transportation is cancelled, it will trigger closures (by zone) and the following shall apply:

- i. All schools and facilities within the identified zone(s) will be closed to students and staff.
 - ii. All training sessions and meetings within the jurisdiction of the Board will be cancelled.
 - iii. If a bus travels through other inclement weather zones during the normal course of its route to take students to school, the bus route will not operate on inclement weather bus cancellation days. Transportation shall not be supplied for students attending schools outside the zone. If buses are cancelled only for a specific zone(s), anyone living in one of the cancelled zones would not have Board provided transportation, even if the school they attend is in a different zone and is open.
 - iv. Students living in a zone where transportation has not been cancelled will not be transported into a zone where transportation has been cancelled.
 - v. When morning transportation has been cancelled, all transportation shall be considered cancelled for the day.
- d) STSBHN will make its own assessment of travel conditions for routes that travel outside of the Board's area into neighbouring jurisdictions (i.e. Oxford County) and communicate any cancellations for these routes. The decision to cancel transportation by an adjacent board does not pertain to Grand Erie District School Board routes.

Procedures for Board Employees

1. When school transportation is **cancelled** (by zone), the facilities within the designated zone(s) will be closed to students and staff.
2. When transportation is **not cancelled** within the zone in which an employee works, the following shall apply:
 - a) An employee is expected to make reasonable efforts to reach their normal place of employment, using safety and common sense as the guiding criteria.
 - b) If an employee is unable to reach their normal place of employment, a Leave of Absence request for 'Hazardous Weather', with an explanation must be submitted to your supervisor.
3. All personnel that work the afternoon/night shift shall call into the Facility Services office at least two hours prior to the start of their shift to obtain direction on reporting to work.
4. Long-term occasional teachers will not attend closed schools (but will be paid according to the per diem rate).
5. When there are closures in any of the four zones, all scheduled training sessions and meetings for staff will be cancelled for the entire system.
6. Consideration to cancel any meeting of the Board will be handled on a situational basis by the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board.

APPENDIX A

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD INCLEMENT WEATHER ZONES			
Zone 1 – Norfolk County	Zone 2 – Haldimand County	Zone 3 – Brant County	Zone 4 – City of Brantford
Elementary Schools	Elementary Schools	Elementary Schools	Elementary Schools
Bloomsburg Public School	Caledonia Centennial Public School	Burford District Elementary School	Agnes G. Hodge Public School
Boston Public School	Hagersville Elementary School	Cobblestone Elementary School	Banbury Heights School
Courtland Public School	J.L. Mitchener Public School	Glen Morris Central Public School	Bellview Public School
Delhi Public School	Jarvis Public School	Mt. Pleasant School	Branlyn Community School
Elgin Avenue Public School	Mapleview Elementary School	North Ward School	Brier Park Public School
Houghton Public School	Oneida Central Public School	Oakland-Scotland Public School	Cedarland Public School
Lakewood Elementary School	Rainham Central School	Onondaga-Brant Public School	Centennial-Grand Woodlands School
Langton School	River Heights School	Paris Central Public School	Central Public School
Lynndale Heights Public School	Seneca Central Public School	St. George-German Public School	Echo Place School
Port Rowan Public School	Thompson Creek Elementary School		École Confédération
Teeterville Public School	Walpole North Elementary School		École Dufferin
Walsh Public School			Graham Bell-Victoria Public School
Waterford Public School			Grandview Public School
West Lynn Public School			Greenbrier Public School
			James Hillier Public School
			King George School
			Lansdowne-Costain Public School
			Major Ballachey Public School
			Prince Charles Public School
			Princess Elizabeth Public School
			Russell Reid Public School
			Rverson Heights Elementary School
			Walter Gretzky Elementary
			Woodman-Cainsville School
Secondary Schools	Secondary Schools	Secondary Schools	Secondary Schools
Delhi District Secondary School	Cayuga Secondary School	Paris District High School	Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School
GELA – Simcoe	Dunnville Secondary School		GELA – City Centre
Simcoe Composite School	Hagersville Secondary School		GELA – Rawdon Street
Valley Heights Secondary School	McKinnon Park Secondary School		North Park Collegiate & Vocational School
Waterford District High School			Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School
			Tollgate Technological Skills Centre
Board Facility Sites	Board Facility Sites		Board Facility Sites
Norfolk School Support Centre	Haldimand School Support Centre		Education Centre
			Facility Services
			Joseph Brant Learning Centre
			Teacher Resource Centre