



## **Extreme Weather and Adverse Operating Conditions Policy for Saskatoon as of January 7, 2008**

The Saskatoon school divisions and FirstBus Canada expect school buses to operate as scheduled under most weather and urban travel conditions usually experienced in Saskatchewan. There should be very few occasions when extreme weather and adverse operating conditions affect school bus service. However, when these conditions arise, school bus service may be delayed, altered or cancelled.

Extreme weather and adverse operating conditions include, but are not limited to: high winds, poor visibility, torrential rain, flooding, mud, lightning, fog, freezing rain, sleet, extreme cold temperature, high wind-chill factors, blizzards, snowdrifts, deeply rutted or snowbound roads, or other factors that alone or in combination make conveying children unsafe.

The overriding consideration to delay, alter, or cancel bus service will be the safety of pupils and the safety of drivers.

The Directors of Education or their designates, in consultation with the Contract Manager for FirstBus, shall authorize the delay, altering, or cancellation of any or all routes.

Parents must ensure that their bus-riding child is adequately dressed for weather conditions in the event that the bus becomes stranded or encounters mechanical problems.

**There are two times of day when extreme weather and/or adverse operating conditions may affect school bus service: the Pick-Up Run (generally the morning run) and the Drop-Off Run (generally the afternoon run).**

### **PICK-UP RUN**

#### **Delays or cancellations**

- A driver considering changing, delaying, or cancelling a run will first consult with FirstBus, who will provide notification to the school division.

- In the event that a single run is delayed or cancelled, FirstBus will attempt to telephone all parents to inform them of the delay, normally one hour, or the cancellation. The school will be notified. The driver will operate the full schedule, including addresses that they could not contact about the delay. Upon arrival at school the driver will inform the principal of all pupils who were not on the bus. The principal will then be responsible for those pupils and contacting the affected parents.
- In the event that bus service is cancelled entirely, the media will be contacted and asked to publicize the cancellation. The driver will telephone each school to inform the principal.

### **Partial service**

- In the event that only partial service can be provided (main arteries only) the driver will telephone the affected parents and inform them. Those parents are then responsible for their own children. The driver must adhere to the regular schedule and not depart other stops before the scheduled time. Upon arrival at the school, the driver will inform the principal of all pupils whom they were unable to pick up (those phoned and any others).

### **DROP-OFF RUN**

Once at school, buses will not normally depart until regular dismissal time.

### **Advanced or delayed service**

- In the event that return service from the school is advanced or delayed (normally one hour) pending a change in conditions, the principal will telephone all parents to inform them. The driver will accept on board the bus only those pupils whose parents were contacted and who accept the advanced or delayed service. The bus will leave the school at the determined time and operate drop-offs according to return routing. Bus riders left at the school will remain responsibility of the principal. In the event that the driver cannot deliver all pupils to their drop-off, he/she will return them to the school where the principal will be responsible for them.

### **Partial service**

- In the event that only partial return service can be provided, the principal will inform the affected parents (those who will not receive bus service). Those pupils will be left at the school and remain the responsibility of the principal. The driver will operate the return run as scheduled, delivering at scheduled times. Any pupils who cannot be delivered to their stop will be

returned to the school and turned over to the principal who will then be responsible for them.

### **Cancellation**

- In the event that the afternoon run is cancelled entirely, the principal will telephone all parents to inform them. Pupils left at the school will remain the responsibility of the principal.

**The decision to cancel a pick-up run is separate from a decision to cancel the drop-off run.** If a morning run is cancelled, the driver will be expected to operate the afternoon run. If the afternoon run is to be cancelled, the principal must again be informed.

### **Wheelchair and Rural Buses**

Wheelchair and rural service will be cancelled when the temperature with wind chill at 0700 is minus 40 Degrees Celsius or colder. Information will be posted on the bus information line – 343-3300.

### **Urban Buses**

Urban bus service will be cancelled when the temperature with wind chill at 0700 is minus 45 Degrees Celsius or colder. Information will be posted on the bus information line – 343-3300.