

## Decision-Process

During inclement weather, keeping schools open is a complex decision.

This decision is made by the Superintendent of Schools for District 18, after the district transportation personnel provide him with current available information.

The transportation department has access to current weather and road conditions throughout the district through the Department of Transportation, Environment Canada, snow sheds, local informants, and internet sites. Any inclement weather prediction is monitored closely throughout the evening and again from 5:00 a.m. onward.

School District 18 will place a recorded message at **453-5455**, no later than 6:30 a.m., to inform the public of school closures because of inclement weather. Please feel free to use this service.

## Transportation Trivia

- ❑ District and contracted conveyance vehicles travelled 2.5 million kilometres last school year!
- ❑ The average kilometres travelled each school day last year was 13,700!
- ❑ School buses serving District 18 travel more than the equivalent of across Canada each school day!
- ❑ There are approximately 450 bus routes and well over 5500 bus stops!
- ❑ Including salaries, vehicle maintenance, fuel, etc., the annual transportation budget for District 18 is approximately \$4.9 million!

## Mission Statement

School District 18 exists to provide the education that meets the development needs of children in the most effective manner representing the values of the community.



# School District 18 Information Brochure



## School Closures Due To Weather

November 2009

## An Important Message to Parents

School District 18 is committed to the SAFE and efficient transportation of students. The District recognizes it may be necessary to cancel bus run(s), close school(s), or delay school opening to ensure students are not endangered by hazards brought on by poor weather or road conditions.

Approximately 12,400 students attend 34 District 18 schools in the following areas: Boiestown, Doaktown, Stanley, Harvey, McAdam, and the greater Fredericton area. One hundred fifteen buses transport about 9,400 students, travelling 2.5 million kms. each school year.

When a decision is made to close school(s), delay school opening or cancel bus run(s) the SAFETY of our students and staff is the paramount factor for consideration.

### These Are The Options

During inclement weather situations, the following options are considered:

1. **Schools are open as usual**: no radio announcement will be made.

2. **All schools are closed for the day**: an announcement is relayed to local radio stations by 6:00 a.m. Parents are urged to listen to the radio early in the morning when inclement weather is predicted.
3. **Some schools** in the district **are closed**: a radio announcement is made.
4. **All school bus routes are delayed one hour**. A radio announcement is made. On these occasions, all schools in the district will be open at their regular time to receive walking and drop-off students. Students arriving late will not be penalized.
5. **Schools may be closed early** on days when it is anticipated that weather conditions may deteriorate significantly. Every effort will be made to notify parents via radio or by telephone.

It is important that parents have alternate arrangements for their child, if they or another adult will not be at home to receive the students. **The school should have this information.**

Because of varying winter weather conditions throughout the district, there may be occasions when a particular bus route is hazardous. In cases where the bus driver has a safety concern, he or she has the responsibility to recommend either the cancellation or delay of their particular bus run. Whenever possible, such a cancellation or delayed bus run will be announced on the radio.

While the loss of instruction time is always a concern, **if you find that weather conditions in your area are not conducive to your child's going to school, then you have the final decision whether to send your child to school or not.** Absences on these days will not be a factor in a student's attendance record.

**Additional note:** There are times when school buses run late for reasons unrelated to the weather. Whenever possible, announcements regarding individual school buses expected to be more than 20 minutes late on their routes are made via local radio stations. Parents are responsible for the safety of their children at the stop until the bus comes.