

## EMERGENCY SCHOOL & DISTRICT CLOSING

No school, office, or system event cancellation or delay will be made without the direct authorization of the Superintendent of Schools. In the event the Superintendent is unavailable, such decisions will be made by a senior administrator specifically designated by the Superintendent.

- A. Announcements and Notifications. When the Superintendent/designee decides it is necessary to delay opening or close any facility or school or cancel any school event, he/she will initiate all related communications to the public by television, website, school alert system, or other available means. Students, parents, and staff shall be informed early in each school year of the procedures which will be used to notify them in case of emergency closings, whether action is taken before or during school hours. In the event of any closings, cancellations, or early dismissals, the Superintendent shall notify the Board.
- B. Delayed Opening of Schools. The Superintendent/designee may delay the opening of schools upon determining that weather or other conditions exist that would make it unwise to open one or more schools at the regularly scheduled time, but that conditions will appreciably improve later in the morning. The public announcement will report the delayed opening, including the cancellation of morning kindergarten, if necessary. Schools and offices shall close on the regular schedules. After-school activities and events will not be affected by a delayed opening.
- C. Closing of Schools Only for the Entire Day. When the Superintendent/designee determines that weather or other conditions exist or will develop that would make it unwise to open one or more schools any time during the day, the announcement communicated to television stations shall state that the school district is closed. If school is closed for the entire day, all afternoon and evening programs shall also be canceled.
- D. Distance Education During Inclement Weather. Pursuant to Board policy IC, the Superintendent may approve school or district-wide instruction by way of remote instruction or other form of "distance education". Unless the use of distance education for a specific day has previously been communicated, the Superintendent/designee will include the necessary information regarding the remote instruction/distance learning day in the announcement that school has been canceled.
- E. Emergency Early Release. The Superintendent/designee may decide to release students early upon determining that weather or other conditions exist that would make it unwise to keep one or more schools open until the end of the regularly scheduled school day. The Superintendent/designee will notify parents as soon as possible in order to allow for the arrangement of after-school care and transportation when necessary. The Superintendent shall develop protocols for dismissal schedules, transportation of students, and notification of stakeholders. If there is an emergency early release, all afternoon and evening programs shall also be canceled.
- F. Afternoon and Evening Program Cancellations. When schools are open to the end of the school day, but weather or other conditions deteriorate in the late afternoon, the Superintendent/designee may decide to cancel afternoon and evening programs. Schools and offices should plan and communicate alternate dates and times to hold programs or events.
- G. Weekend Closings. When weather or other conditions are predicted or develop that would make it hazardous to operate weekend programs or events, the Superintendent/designee is responsible for decisions regarding cancellations and for notifying the appropriate media.

**Legal References:**

RSA 189:1, Days of School

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rule - Ed 306.18, School Year

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rule - Ed 306.19, School Calendar

N.H. Dept. of Ed. Rule - Ed 306.22, Distance Education

***Legal References Disclaimer:*** *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

First Reading:	January 22, 2002
Second Reading:	February 5, 2002
Adopted:	February 5, 2002
First Reading:	June 24, 2008
Second Reading:	July 8, 2008
Revised:	July 8, 2008
First Reading:	October 26, 2022
Second Reading:	November 16, 2022
Revised:	November 16, 2022