



School Closure

Due to Road or Weather Conditions

Student Safety is Our First Priority

The decision to cancel or change school schedules is taken very seriously. With approximately 90 per cent of AVRSB students traveling by school bus, road safety is of utmost importance. AVRSB appreciates the challenges parents/guardians face when making alternate plans as a result of these changes, and recognizes the inconvenience they can cause. AVRSB also recognizes parent/guardian concerns regarding the loss of instructional time.

The Decision-Making Process

During the winter months, the Coordinator of Transportation and School Bus Foremen monitor the weather each evening for potential storm/weather-related conditions that may affect school bus operations the next day. Early in the morning, they check road conditions and various weather websites, and liaise with the Department of Transportation offices in Annapolis, West Hants, and Kings Counties.

Since weather conditions can vary significantly from one end of the Valley to another, the decision not to run buses and to cancel classes for students within the AVRSB will be made by individual counties. For example, all Annapolis County schools may be closed due to bad weather when schools in the other two counties remain open, since those counties do not have the same weather conditions.

The decision to cancel all board-provided transportation and to keep buses off highways is made when the risk to students and drivers is judged to be too high, or may become too high, because of road or forecasted weather conditions. This decision rests with the Coordinator of Transportation and the Superintendent of Schools, and will be made in time for 6:00 a.m. media broadcasts.

How Is the Decision Announced?

School closures or delayed openings are broadcast via:

Annapolis Valley Radio Network (AVR)	CJCH/C-100, Halifax
K-Rock 89.3	ATV News
CBC-FM, Halifax (English and French)	The Weather Network on Cable TV
CHFX/CHNS, Halifax	News 95.7

Information is also posted online to the following sites:

AVRSB website: www.avrsb.ca

CBC Storm Centre website: www.cbc.ca/stormcentre/ns/

AVR website: www.avrnetwork.com/cancellations.php

K-Rock website: www.k-rock893.com (under "Cancellations")

Information is also available through the Regional Office switchboard: 902-538-4600 or 1-800-850-3887

Drivers' Discretion on Side Roads

There will be times when the numbered series highways are plowed, sanded, and salted early enough in the day to allow for safe travel of school buses; however secondary and side roads are sometimes not cleared until later in the day. In these instances, bus drivers will use their discretion as to whether or not they are able to safely access these roads to pick up students. If not, they will advise the dispatcher that they are unable to do so.



Early Closure Due to Impending or Worsening Weather

When weather changes are predicted, the Coordinator of Transportation will liaise with Department of Transportation offices across the AVRSB region throughout the day. The Coordinator of Transportation and Superintendent of Schools will decide if the operation of school buses will be affected by weather change, and whether it will be necessary to dismiss schools early. If it is necessary to operate buses earlier than their normal schedule, schools will initiate procedures appropriate to grade levels. Announcements are broadcast immediately over radio networks and at www.avrsb.ca.

Parents/guardians can also subscribe to receive email or text message notification of important announcements from AVRSB, such as school closures. To subscribe, visit www.avrsb.ca/content/notify-me.

Dealing With Wind Chill

Wind chill is the combined effect of temperature and wind. On occasion, the weather and wind chill will be sufficient to increase the risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Students should come to school appropriately dressed, which includes wearing warm layers as well as a hat, gloves/mittens, scarf, and a coat.



The following is a guideline for avoiding wind-related injuries:

- 0 to –20 Wind Chill: Care should be taken in assessing the appropriateness of sending students outside. Factors are listed below.
- -21 to –27 Wind Chill: Serious consideration should be given to whether it is appropriate for students to be outside. See factors below.
- Below –27 Wind Chill: Students should not go outside during the school day.

There are important factors to consider, not just the wind chill itself. These are:

1. Whether students are appropriately dressed (hat, gloves/mittens, scarf, warm clothing)
2. How long students will be outside
3. Activity level (for heat generation)
4. Exposure to the wind

Further information is available on the Environment Canada Wind Chill site: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=5FBF816A-1>