

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND BUS CANCELATIONS

Date: December 15, 2015

Revised: February 4, 2018

Statement

School buses may be delayed/canceled when inclement weather interferes with the safe transportation of students. It is a consensus that local bus Operators and Tri-Board supervisors are in the best position to determine whether it is safe to offer transportation. Parents/Guardians are ultimately responsible for the safety of their children and can opt to drive students to school regardless of whether or not transportation is being offered by Tri-Board. In the event of an all-day bus cancellation, parents/guardians who choose to transport their children to school are also responsible for their afternoon pick up.

COMMUNICATION OF DELAYS/CANCELATIONS

All delays and cancellations are posted to Triboard.ca. Parents/guardians are encouraged to subscribe to our email notification system to receive up-to-date information on their children's individual bus routes. Tri-Board also posts delays and cancellations to Twitter under @BusDelayNCancel. The Bus Delay App is also available for IOS and Android using the code TSTS. Tri-Board does not provide information to radio stations/news outlets and recommends third parties collect their data from the website to ensure information is up-to-date.

Procedure

WEATHER ZONES

Due to the size, Tri-Board's service area is divided it into [10 geographical weather zones](#):



- North Hastings
- Central Hastings
- Belleville & Quinte West
- North Lennox & Addington
- Central Lennox & Addington
- South Lennox & Addington
- North and Central Frontenac
- South Frontenac
- Kingston and Frontenac Islands
- Prince Edward County

Each weather zone has a "Weather Captain" who gathers pertinent information very early in the morning from local bus operators, drivers, and road crews regarding driving conditions. The information collected by Weather Captains is provided to Tri-Board Supervisors who review this

data along with Environment Canada safety guidelines, radar and weather forecasts (morning and afternoon) in order to provide an overview for each zone to Tri-Board's Chief Executive Officer by 5:30AM. The decision to cancel all transportation is made by the Directors of Education in consultation with the Tri-Board CEO by 6:00AM.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

Careful consideration of weather and effects on road conditions must be taken into account for the safety of the 30,000 students transported in school buses, which behave very differently than the average family vehicle. Buses may be canceled in the morning due to impending weather expected to commence during peak afternoon ride times. Buses that are canceled due to weather such as fog and extreme cold in the morning may run in the afternoon if weather improves by noon and is expected to stay consistent.

Snow and Freezing Rain

Both snow and freezing rain have an impact on road conditions and visibility. Salt/sand is ineffective at melting ice when the temperature dips below -12°C. Municipalities in Tri-Board's service area manage snow clearing differently depending on current and expected ice/snow fall.

Extreme Cold

Environment Canada issues [Extreme Cold Warnings](#) at varying temperatures throughout Tri-Board's service area. Temperatures of -35°C and lower increase the risk of getting frostbite within minutes. Buses often run into mechanical issues such as break-downs in extreme cold, which can increase the time students are outside waiting.

Fog

Heavy fog can reduce visibility. If the fog does not clear by noon, the afternoon run will also be canceled. Schools will be notified by their bus operators and will be responsible for communicating with parents.

EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO WEATHER

Tri-Board will do their best to cancel busing for impending weather, however it is possible that a principal or designate requests early dismissal due to unforeseen deteriorating weather. The Director of Education at the applicable board(s), in cooperation with Tri-Board, should make this decision by 10:30am. Tri-Board will notify operators and post on social media. It is the responsibility of the school and/or school board to notify parents.

INDIVIDUAL ROUTE CANCELATIONS

If a driver feels a route is unsafe to drive in a non-canceled weather zone, the route will be canceled for the entire day. If a portion of a route cannot be driven, this will be posted as "Contact Bus Company – some roads not travelable." Parents/Guardians are expected to call their bus operator directly for more information in this instance.