

TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURE	NWOSSC 112
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112 EARLY DISMISSAL - TRANSPORTATION ONLY		Date: June 2009

Statement and Rationale	<p>Conditions may occur between bus arrival to school and regular school dismissal times that require early dismissal for transported students only. These conditions are most commonly related to weather and/or road conditions, or road closures.</p> <p>Early dismissals for transportation only are distinct from early dismissals due to school closures affecting all students, which are made at the discretion of individual school boards.</p>
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Procedure	<p>The General Manager or designate will collect and analyse all available information and make a decision regarding early dismissal for transportation only.</p> <p><u>Integrated Transportation System:</u> The Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium (NWOSSC) transportation system is fully integrated between member school boards, schools, and elementary and secondary panels. As a result, early dismissal decisions must be made in a coordinated manner involving all affected boards.</p> <p><u>Service Areas:</u> Due to the large geographic size of the Consortium's service area early dismissal may be required for one area, community, or school but not others. Specific routes may also be assessed in isolation from the rest of the system due to the length of the routes and the distance to travel.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> Every effort will be made to allow a minimum of two hours for schools to communicate with affected families and make arrangements for affected students. Early dismissals typically occur between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00p.m.</p> <p><u>Communication:</u> During a severe weather event the General Manager or designate will monitor weather and road conditions the night before as well as in the morning. If conditions</p>
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Reference to Policy	Reviewed: December 2019	Next Review: 2022
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	<p>do not warrant cancellation, but there is ongoing concern in some or all areas, the General Manager or designate will contact the appropriate Bus Operator(s) to put buses on standby. The General Manager or designate will also inform Consortium Directors, appropriate Directors of Education, and school Principals of the possibility of early dismissal.</p> <p>When a decision is made, the General Manager or designate will advise Consortium Directors and appropriate Directors of Education. Consortium staff will contact affected schools directly.</p> <p>Member school boards are asked to ensure that all schools have a plan in place to contact parents/guardians within a two hour time frame. Every parent must be contacted, unless the school has pre-arranged written direction for the student indicating whether or not they use transportation or remain at the school in the event of an early dismissal.</p> <p>Early dismissals will also be posted www.nwobus.ca and an SMS alert will be sent to stakeholders in affected areas.</p>
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Reference to Policy	Reviewed: December 2019	Next Review: 2022
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