



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Student Services Consortium



TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURE	NWOSSC 112
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112 EARLY DISMISSAL (TRANSPORTATION)	Date: June 2009
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Statement and Rationale	Due to inclement weather conditions, facility failure or other possible factors, the Consortium may have to dismiss buses early for the day. The transportation system is fully integrated between all the boards, schools and elementary and secondary panels. A decision to dismiss the buses early cannot be made in isolation of one school board however it may occur on the basis of an area. It is important to note that the decision to dismiss the buses early is not made lightly. A decision is made with the best information available at the time of the call.
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Procedure	<p>The Manager or designate will collect and analyze all the data and make a decision regarding Early Bus Dismissal ONLY. Communication and discussion should occur with the other Directors of Education or Superintendents of Business from the member boards. Early Bus Dismissal does not mean early school dismissal. Early school dismissal is at the discretion of the respective member boards.</p> <p>There are certain conditions which may occur between bus arrival to school and regular dismissal times which can impact transportation. These conditions are normally weather related however a highway closure or a school being shut down due to facility failure may occur e.g.: water main break, gas leak.</p> <p>Due to the large geographic size of the Consortium's service area, there may be a variance in the weather conditions or even weather patterns throughout the service areas. It is possible that the school buses may run in one area but not in another. The service areas are broken out into the following areas:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Kenora</td> <td>Sioux Narrows</td> <td>Red Lake/Ear Falls</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sioux Lookout</td> <td>Pickle Lake/Savant Lake</td> <td>Upsala</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dryden</td> <td>Ignace</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are also several routes which may be assessed in isolation from the rest of the system due to the length of the routes and the distance to travel, for e.g.: Red Lake to Ear Falls,</p>	Kenora	Sioux Narrows	Red Lake/Ear Falls	Sioux Lookout	Pickle Lake/Savant Lake	Upsala	Dryden	Ignace	
Kenora	Sioux Narrows	Red Lake/Ear Falls								
Sioux Lookout	Pickle Lake/Savant Lake	Upsala								
Dryden	Ignace									

Reference to Policy	Reviewed: April 2015 Previous Review: October 2011 Next Review: 2018
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	<p>Kenora to Sioux Narrows, Ignace to Upsala or the Dryden to Vermilion Bay buses.</p> <p>The decision to dismiss schools early must occur by 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. so time and efficiency is critical. An early dismissal may occur as early as noon but schools must have a minimum of two hours to ensure every elementary parent is contacted. Early dismissals usually occur around 1:00 p.m. Member boards are asked to ensure that all schools must have a plan in place to contact every elementary parent within a two hour time frame. Every elementary parent must be contacted to ensure that a child is not being sent to an empty home or the school must have pre-arranged written direction for the child on whether or not they utilize transportation or remain at the school.</p> <p>There may be a difference in some of the early dismissal times where buses are double routed or tiered.</p> <p>Weather Related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Operators and the Manager or designate should be monitoring weather the night before as well as in the morning. • If there is a definite concern in some or all areas, the Manager or designate will put the Bus Operators on standby pending a decision on early dismissal. • An email to principals and school administrative assistants may be considered to advise schools that weather conditions are being reviewed and an early dismissal may be considered. • It is important to have contacts established in each community to provide reports on current conditions. The early dismissal will also be posted www.nwobus.ca and an email alert will be sent out to stakeholders. • Every school will be contacted via email and advised of the early dismissal. It is important that school administration are regularly checking email. As resources permit, Consortium staff will attempt to telephone the schools.
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Conseil scolaire
de district catholique des
Aurores boréales.ca



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