

BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS

Administrative School District No. 1

Deschutes County, Oregon

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Name: **Delays and**

Emergency School Closures

Section: Support Services

Code: EBCD-AR

In case of hazardous or emergency conditions, the Superintendent **or designee** may alter district, **school**, and transportation schedules appropriate to the particular condition. Such alterations include closure of all schools, closure of selected schools or grade levels, delayed openings of schools and early dismissal of students. The Superintendent **or designee** will develop and maintain such plans and procedures as are necessary to carry out alternate school and **transportation bus** schedules.

At the beginning of each school year, students, parents/**guardians**, and staff will be informed of the procedures used to notify them in case of **a school delay and/or school emergency** closure.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **School Closure:** schools are closed for the day due to weather or emergency. In this scenario, the school building will not be used. Unless otherwise noted, all evening meetings and activities are cancelled.
- **Delayed Start:** schools will have a delayed start. In this scenario, buses will run on a schedule later than the normal schedule and drive time may be impacted due to conditions.
- **Early Closure:** schools may be closed early due to weather or emergency. In this scenario, the students who ride a school bus may be released early to give buses extra time to complete routes. Generally, school buildings will not be used once closed and all evening meetings and activities are cancelled.

4. INCLEMENT WEATHER PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of ~~the~~ Bend-La Pine Schools District is to keep schools open and operate **district transportation services buses** except under extreme adverse conditions.

During a weather event ~~snow and ice days~~, if the district determines that ~~more than half of the students can safely attend school~~, school facility conditions are safe and that the district transportation department can safely operate school buses, the district will hold school and offer **transportation bus** services. Parents/**guardians** may choose to transport their own students or ~~to~~ keep their **students children** at home due to safety concerns. **Students will be excused from school when parents/guardians inform their students' school of the absence through established absence reporting methods.**

~~During the winter months, roads shall be checked daily to ensure that students can be transported safely. The district maintains contact with the Redmond and La Pine Transportation Departments, local law enforcement agencies, and state transportation agencies, as appropriate.~~

~~Under extreme conditions, if it is determined that the weather and/or roads are not safely passable, schools will be issued a two-hour delay or be closed entirely. (The La Pine and South County areas may operate on a separate schedule). If schools are closed, all after-school activities will generally be cancelled. If schools are delayed 2 hours, morning kindergarten classes will be cancelled.~~

~~Additional information and/or specific answers to questions may be obtained by calling the inclement weather line at 541.323.SNOW (7669), or by accessing the District website at www.bend.k12.or.us.~~

2. PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNICATING, DETERMINING ~~DISTRICT ROAD CONDITIONS~~ AND RECOMMENDATION OF SCHOOL DELAY OR CLOSURE

During a weather event, the district will assess conditions and determine if changes to school operations are necessary. Depending on weather and circumstances, these assessments may include:

- Driving affected areas in Bend, La Pine and Sunriver in passenger vehicles to assess road conditions, weather hazards, snow depth, ice, etc.,
- Assessing school facility conditions to ensure parking lots and primary sidewalks are accessible to students and staff,
- Monitoring weather forecasts in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
- Monitoring smoke and fire conditions through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ),
- Communicating with local and state road departments,
- Monitoring regional roadway cameras,
- Communicating with local and regional law enforcement agencies.

Any closures, or delays will be communicated through the following methods:

- District text message system (BL Connect),
- District website (www.bend.k12.or.us),
- District weather delay or closure hotline (541-323-7669 English and 541-355-0044 Spanish),
- Notification of bus route changes through MyStop (<https://bls.fyi.mystop>),
- Postings to the district's social media pages, and
- Via local media outlets as quickly as possible.

During an emergency, Bend-La Pine Schools will send an alert via the district's text messaging system, BL Connect, in the case of an evacuation, lockdown, emergency, or weather-related event that calls for the cancellation of a school day or changes to the school day start or end times. Notification will be sent **after** students and staff have been secured and emergency responders have been notified.

BL Connect will not be used in the case of drills, medical incidents involving specific students or secure building events. General press and community releases will not be sent through BL Connect.

Should schools need to be closed during the day after students have arrived or been picked up and transported to school, the closure will be communicated through the various methods mentioned above, and ~~media and~~ parents/guardians will be notified. Students will not be transported home without parent/guardian notification and contact.

~~a. Weather conditions shall be monitored the night before an anticipated storm.~~

~~b. The Transportation Supervisor will drive the Bend area early in the morning. The La Pine Transportation Operations Manager will drive the La Pine area.~~

~~c. The La Pine Transportation Operations Manager will contact the South County Chief Academic Officer prior to making a South County recommendation.~~

~~d. Approximately 30-45 minutes before informing the Deputy Superintendent, the Transportation Supervisor will call the following:~~

- ~~1. Oregon Department of Transportation~~
- ~~2. Local Police and Sheriff Departments, as necessary~~
- ~~3. La Pine Transportation Operations Manager~~
- ~~4. Consult with District Maintenance personnel~~
- ~~5. Consult with Redmond School District Transportation Supervisor~~
- ~~6. Other district personnel, as necessary~~

~~e. The Transportation Supervisor and the La Pine Transportation Operations Manager shall communicate their recommendations to the Deputy Superintendent (close, delayed start, open, etc.). The Deputy Superintendent will confirm their recommendations and consult with the Superintendent for a final decision (La Pine area decisions will involve the South County Chief Academic Officer).~~

~~f. If the decision is to close or delay starting, the District will implement the chain of communication (decision usually by 5:30 a.m.).~~

~~g. If a delayed start is implemented, the Transportation Supervisor will monitor the condition for the next 30 minutes for any change. Only if the condition dramatically changes will a recommendation to close the District be forwarded.~~

DATED: 6/9/87

REVISED: 10/22/01

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