

**BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS**

Administrative School District No. 1

Deschutes County, Oregon

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**

Name: Delays and School Closures

Section: Support Services

Code: EBCD-AR

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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 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 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.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER PHILOSOPHY**

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

During a weather event if the district determines that school facility conditions are safe and that the district transportation department can safely operate school buses, the district will hold school and offer transportation services. Parents/guardians may choose to transport their own students or keep their students 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. More specific guidance can be found on the district website: <https://www.bend.k12.or.us/district/news-events/alerts-updates>

**PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNICATING, DETERMINING 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](http://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 parents/guardians will be notified. Students will not be transported home without parent/guardian notification and contact.

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