

ECACS believes that the decision to cancel bus service during inclement weather safeguards passengers and drivers. Students of East Central Alberta Catholic Schools who are provided rural transportation services by East Central Alberta Catholic Schools, by Buffalo Trail Public Schools or by Clearview School Division are guided by the following procedures.

**BTPS Guidelines**

A jurisdictional decision to cancel bus service will be made for the following reasons.

- i. When a temperature of -40°C or below (with or without the wind-chill factor) is projected between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 am and/or between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm when buses are on route.
- ii. When special warning statements are issued by Environment Canada or Alberta 511 regarding road conditions and roads are deemed to be impassable.

Designated **Intown** (Wainwright/Denwood, Vermilion) bus routes will always run unless notified by the bus contractor/driver that they are not able to operate.

**Clearview Guidelines**

School bus operation(s) shall be suspended when:

- i. There is reduced visibility of (0.2 km or less)
- ii. The air temperature is colder than -35 degrees Celsius or when the temperature, taking into consideration wind speed, exceeds -40 degrees Celsius.

**Procedures**

1. If inclement weather may result in buses not operating, the drivers of the affected area will consult with the Principal before 6:00 AM.
2. If a temperature of -40°C or below (with or without a wind-chill factor) is projected or if Environment Canada has issued weather warnings, cancellation of transportation services must be considered. Information may also be obtained from the following sources.
  - a) [www.theweathernetwork.com](http://www.theweathernetwork.com)
  - b) <https://weather.gc.ca/>
  - c) <https://roadreports.ama.ab.ca/>
3. Notwithstanding Clause 2, when early morning inclement weather conditions exist, it shall be the sole responsibility of each bus driver to decide whether or not he/she will operate his/her bus for that day. In making the decision to cancel school bus operations, each driver will consult with fellow bus drivers from the Division and the decision of the bordering divisions or districts if available. The following factors shall be taken into consideration as they relate to their own route:
  - a) Air temperature and wind speed
  - b) Severely reduced visibility (0.2 km or less)
  - c) Freezing rain

- d) Weather and/or road conditions that make bus operation a significant safety risk.

The bus driver will be paid their daily rate when an inclement weather day has to be declared.

- 4. When the bus driver has decided to cancel school bus service, he/she shall immediately notify the following:

- a) Parent/guardian of the students on his/her bus using a pre-arranged phone fan out system to expedite the process.
- b) School Administration of the school(s) affected
- c) Local radio stations

- 5. The following radio stations will announce bus cancellations in affected areas;

- a) Wainwright 93.7 Wayne FM
- b) Stettler 93.3 FM
- c) Theresetta 840 CFCW

- 6. All ECACS schools remain open during inclement weather unless exceptional circumstances require school closure.
- 7. Buses will run in the afternoon, unless the projected temperature at 6:00 pm the night before is -40°C or colder for the afternoon bus run (between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.)
- 8. The parents/guardian should consider factors such as the child's age and health in making the final decision about sending their children on a bus that continues to run during inclement weather.
- 9. In the event that a bus driver has started his/her route and then determines it is unsafe to continue, the driver must ensure that students are delivered to their home and that they are able to enter their home. In the case of very young students the driver shall ensure that a responsible person is available for supervision. If it is not possible to deliver the student home, the driver should keep the student on the bus until he/she is able to deliver the student to a safe place. Form 605-1 – Alternate Drop off Form
- 10. Inclement weather may require students to be transported home before the end of the regular school day. The decision to send the busses home earlier will be made by the Superintendent/Designate in consultation with the principal(s) and the bus drivers. School Administration is responsible for contacting the bus drivers to transport the students and for informing parents of the situation. No student will be taken home until parental/guardian contact has been made.

Reviewed/Revised: March 2014, September 2014, January 2017 February 2019 May 2019

Reference: Sections 10, 59, 53, 52, 222, 225 Education Act  
Student Transportation Regulation 250/98 (amended AR 133/15)  
Traffic Safety Act  
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation 250/98 (amended AR 133/15)  
AP 104 – Inclement Weather  
AP 701.11 – Inclement Weather – Jurisdictional Bus Cancellations - BTPS  
AP 508 – Extreme Weather Conditions – Clearview School Division No. 71