

STUDENTS - Series 500

504 Student Health and Safety Regulations

504.8 Emergency School Closings

The superintendent has the authority to close schools, dismiss them early or keep them open beyond the regular school day in case of extreme weather or other emergency conditions. As soon as possible after the decision has been made, the superintendent shall arrange to announce the closing via the news media.

Make-up days will be scheduled so that students will attend school for the minimum number of school days per year prescribed by statute, Iowa Department of Education rules and board policy. On any day when the school is forced to close early, the portion of that day that school was in session shall be defined as a day of school.

Transportation in Poor Weather Conditions

West Branch buses will not operate when weather conditions due to fog, rain, snow or other natural elements make it unsafe to do so. Because weather conditions may vary around the district and may change quickly, the best judgment will be used that is possible with the information available. It may be possible that on some occasions the entire district may not be affected by delays when weather conditions may vary in different locations. When school is canceled because of weather anywhere in the district, all schools will be closed.

Should weather conditions deteriorate to a level of questionable safety after buses have started their routes, drivers will use their own judgment as to whether to continue the route, return to the school or take other action. Drivers will report action other than continuation of routes to the Central Office. The Central Office staff will advise the community of the action taken via commercial radio, television and/or telephone. In this event, parents may be asked to pick up their children at school or at some location on the bus route.

During periods when road conditions create a high possibility of buses becoming stuck or damaged by use of the roads, emergency routes, established and announced in advance, shall be utilized. Emergency routes will basically travel only hard surfaced roads or roads known to be capable of usage. Students on these routes shall be required to meet their buses at designated stopping points along the emergency routes.

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Legal Reference: Iowa Code Sections 279.8; 279.10; 321.3720); as amended

Cross Reference: 702.10 Bus Stops