

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Background

The health and safety of students is a paramount consideration in the organization of outdoor activities.

Procedures

1. Decisions regarding outdoor activities are to take into consideration inclement weather that may result from the following conditions or combination of conditions:
 - 1.1 Continuous rain;
 - 1.2 Extreme wind, and/or
 - 1.3 Extreme cold.
2. The suggested guideline is that students do not go outside if the temperature is -20° C or colder; or if the temperature and wind chill factor are -20° C or colder.
3. Each Principal is to have procedures in place to be used during inclement weather.
 - 3.1 Check the [Environment Canada Weather](https://weather.gc.ca/canada_e.html) website (https://weather.gc.ca/canada_e.html) You may also choose to phone Environment Canada at (780) 468-4940.
 - 3.2 Devise a signal for informing students who arrive at school prior to the entry bell as to whether or not they may enter the school. For example, use of red, yellow and green signs.
 - 3.3 Communicate to parents and students the exact times in the morning that school entry doors are unlocked. A suggested reasonable time is twenty minutes prior to the entry bell time.
 - 3.4 Communicate to students that they are to re-enter the school at the end of the day if they miss their bus, a sibling forgets to meet them, etc.
 - 3.5 Consider the time variance between recess and noon hour, for example, ten minutes outdoors at recess and up to 30 minutes outdoors at noon hour.
 - 3.6 Develop a procedure for handling parental requests for students to remain inside for recess.
 - 3.7 The school's Inclement Weather Procedures are to be posted on the school website and published in fall newsletters as a reminder to parents. Mention could be made of the importance of recess in terms of it being a vital time for socialization, fresh air, exercise, the opportunity to eat a snack, etc. Families are to be reminded that recesses will be indoors only during extreme weather conditions, so students are to come to school dressed appropriately for outdoors.

Reference: Section 18, 20, 45, 45.1, 56, 57, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Employment Standards Act
Occupational Health & Safety Act

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