

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The Superintendent is empowered to close the district schools or to dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies, which threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. While it may be prudent, under certain circumstances, to excuse all students from attending school, to delay the opening hour, or to dismiss students early, the administration has the responsibility to see that as much of the administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued as may be possible. Therefore if conditions affect only a single school, only that school shall be closed.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent or his designee shall consider many factors, including the following principal ones relating to the fundamental concern for the safety and health of children:

1. Weather conditions, both existing and predicted
2. Driving, traffic, and parking conditions, affecting public and private transportation facilities
3. Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition which would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous
4. Inability of teaching personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.

The Superintendent shall weigh these factors and shall take action to close the schools only after consultation with public works and public safety authorities and with school officials from neighboring districts. Students, parents, and staff shall be informed early in each school year of the procedures, which will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members shall comply with School Committee policy in reporting for work.