



Niagara Catholic District School Board

**EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE DURING  
INCLEMENT WEATHER AND WORKPLACE CLOSURE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

200 – Human Resources

No 201.9

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In keeping with the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the following are Administrative Operational Procedures for Employee Attendance During Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure.

## **PREAMBLE**

All employees of the Niagara Catholic District School Board are expected to be at their place of employment during the required working hours as defined by the Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario, respective Collective Agreements, or Terms of Employment.

During periods of inclement weather or authorized school, workplace or a system closure, employees will comply with the expectations provided within the accompanying operational procedures.

During inclement weather or any other conditions which could affect the health and safety of students and staff, the Director of Education is authorized to change the working location of employees, change or alter the normal hours of operation of a school, group of schools or the system or close all or part of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

For the health and safety of students and staff, bus drivers and building occupants and the effective delivery of programs, supports and services, the Director of Education is authorized to close a school, a group of schools, board facilities or all schools and board facilities due to inclement weather or when the normal operations of a board facility are affected.

The Director of Education will inform the Chair of the Board and all Trustees of any closures, change or alteration to the normal hours of operation of a school, group of schools or the system.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Inclement weather is defined as severe, harsh or stormy weather conditions which will vary throughout the Region of Niagara and could delay travel to schools as well as effect the normal operations of schools, worksites or the system which includes, but not limited to, the delay or cancellation of bus transportation by bus companies; travel advisories or road closures by the Niagara Regional Police and/or Ontario Provincial Police; or extreme weather warnings issued by Environment Canada to local municipalities in the Region of Niagara.

In consultation with members of Senior Administrative Council and as required, but not limited to, Niagara Student Transportation Services, Niagara Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police and coterminous school boards, the Director of Education will determine any alterations and/or closures to the normal operations of the Niagara Catholic District School Board due to inclement weather or any other conditions which would affect the normal operations of a school, group of schools or the system.

## REGULAR WORK LOCATION/ALTERNATE WORK LOCATION

1. With the exception of school closures, in periods of inclement weather, it is an expectation that all staff will attempt to reach their work location in time for normal hours of operation.
2. If travel to work from the employee's location is impeded by inclement weather within the Board's jurisdiction and may cause lateness, the employee will notify their Principal or immediate Supervisor upon arrival at the alternate pre-determined location(s), indicating their time of arrival.
3. On an annual basis, the Principal or Supervisor will create a Pre-Determined *Alternate Location List* for staff to attend should the school or Board Facility be closed. The *Alternative Location List* will be provided to the Family of Schools Superintendent and Human Resources Services for distribution to the Principal or Supervisor of the alternate location.
4. If inclement weather conditions are so severe as announced by the Ministry of Transportation, the Niagara Regional Police, and/or the Ontario Provincial Police as to delay travel to the employee's regular usual work location, the employee will report to the nearest school or work location within the Niagara Catholic District School Board and report to the Principal and/or Supervisor of that location for their normal hours of duty. Upon arrival at the alternate location, the employee is responsible to contact by phone their Principal and/or Supervisor to inform them of their location.
5. When an employee reports to an alternative work location, they are under the authority of the Principal and/or Supervisor of that school or facility for their normal hours of duty.
6. The Principal/Supervisor is required to report all employees who have attended an alternate work location to the Family of Schools' Superintendent of Education who will inform Human Resources Services.
7. When the school buses are cancelled due to inclement weather as announced through local media and on the Board website, all daily occasional and/or casual replacements assigned for the specific day are not to report to the daily assignment and will not be paid for this cancellation. (Unless otherwise notified, on days when bus transportation is cancelled, all professional development in-services will be cancelled.)

## ABSENCE FROM REGULAR WORK LOCATION AND/OR ALTERNATE WORK LOCATION

1. Where an employee deems it impossible to report to any school or alternate work location within the Niagara Catholic District School Board in time for the commencement of normal hours of operation they must notify by phone their immediate Principal/Supervisor. The Principal/Supervisor will discuss a delay in the time to report to any school or alternate work location within the Board.
2. All employees must report to their regular school or work location or in its alternative any other school or work location, if open, within the Niagara Catholic District School Board as weather conditions change throughout the day.
3. Employees who are unable to report to any school or alternate work location within the Niagara Catholic District School Board are required to record their absence on the Smart Find Express (SFE) system using the inclement weather code.
4. Principals/Supervisors are required to report all employees who have contacted them indicating that they deemed it impossible to report to any school or alternate work location within the Niagara Catholic District School Board to the Family of Schools Superintendent of Education by the end of the school day.
5. Employees unable to report to a school or alternate work location, must provide the Senior Administrator of Human Resources a signed and dated written explanation of the reason for the absence

on their return to active duty. The decision of remuneration shall be determined by the Superintendent of Human Resources in consultation with the appropriate supervisor.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE

1. Where the school, group of schools, or workplace is declared closed prior to the commencement of a scheduled workday, as announced through local media and the board website, all daily occasional and/or casual replacements, with the exception of long term occasional teachers assigned to the school or workplace for the specific day will not be paid for the day of the closure.
2. Where a school, a group of schools, or a workplace site is closed by the Director of Education, employees are required to attend a work location or alternate location determined by the Director of Education in consultation with members of Senior Administrative Council, the Family of Schools Superintendent of Education and the Principal and/or Principals(s) affected by a school closure. The alternate location(s) for school or workplace staff will be communicated to staff by the Principal or Supervisor through staff phone communication procedures, announced on local media services and posted on the Board website. Where the school or workplace is declared closed prior to the commencement of a scheduled workday, as announced through local media and the board website, all occasional and/or casual replacements assigned to the school or workplace for the specific day will not be paid for the day of the closure, with the exception of long term occasional teachers. Daily Occasional and casual staff that are placed in an assignment for more than ten (10) consecutive days for the same employee will be paid for the day of closure of school or workplace site.

## SYSTEM CLOSURE

1. When the Director of Education closes the entire system, employees are not required to report to any work location. For system closures employees are;
  - not required to record their absences on the Smart Find Express (SFE)
  - to remain in contact with their school Principal and/or Supervisor and/or the Board website for current information on the status of the system closure and the return to normal operations of the system.
2. Where the school or workplace is declared closed prior to the commencement of a scheduled workday, as announced through local media and the board website, all daily occasional and/or casual replacements, with the exception of long term occasional teachers assigned to the school or workplace for the specific day will not be paid for the day of the closure.

### *References*

- [\*Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario\*](#)
- [\*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures/Documents\*](#)
  - [\*School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy \(500.1\)\*](#)

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