



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 safely reach their assigned work locations.
2. If travel to work is impeded by inclement weather, the employee will notify their Principal or immediate Supervisor by phone to discuss a delay in the time, and/or the possibility of reporting to an alternate work location.
3. 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.
4. Principals/Supervisors will report all employees who have attended an alternate work location to the Superintendent/Senior Administrator of Human Resources Services.
5. When the school buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, all daily occasional and/or casual replacements are to report to their assignment and will be paid as per their scheduled assignment. (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 their assigned work location and/or alternate work location they must notify their immediate Principal/Supervisor by phone or other electronic means (i.e. email/text).
2. 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.
3. Principals/Supervisors will 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 Superintendent/Senior Administrator of Human Resources Services by the end of the school day.
4. Employees unable to report to a school or alternate work location, must provide the Senior Administrator of Human Resources with a signed and dated written explanation of the reason for the absence. The decision of remuneration shall be determined by the Superintendent of Human Resources in consultation with the appropriate principal/supervisor.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

1. Where the school, group of schools, or workplace is declared closed after the arrival of staff, all daily occasional teachers and/or casual replacements, assigned to the school or workplace for the specific day will be paid for the day of the closure as per their scheduled assignment in Smartfind Express. Daily occasional teachers are employed by the Board to teach on a day to day basis.
2. Where a school, a group of schools, or a workplace site is closed by the Director of Education, employees are required to attend an alternate location determined by the Director of Education in consultation with members of the Senior Administrative Council, the Principal and/or Principals(s) affected by a school closure.
3. The alternate location(s) for school or workplace staff will be communicated to staff by the Principal or Supervisor through staff communication procedures.

4. Where the school or workplace is declared closed, prior to the arrival of staff and prior to the commencement of a scheduled workday, 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. Long term occasional teachers and casual staff that are placed in an assignment for eleven (11) or more 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, Supervisor and refer to the Board website for current information on the status of the system closure and the return to normal operations of the system.

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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