

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WENHAM, MA

C3002

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The Superintendent or his or her designee may close the schools or dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that 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 Superintendent or his or her designee 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 will be closed.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent or his or her designee will consider many factors, including the following principle ones relating to the fundamental concern for the safety and health of the 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 that 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.
5. If parents or guardians choose to keep their child or children home because of weather conditions when school is open, students will be counted as absent although the District understands that the parents' or guardians' decision may be prudent.

After appropriate consultations by the Superintendent or his or her designee, students, parents/guardians and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closings.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:4; 71:4A

Policy Review: 1st Reading: April 3, 2014
2nd Reading: April 17, 2014
Policy Adopted: October 2, 2011
Vote: 7-0-0-2
Chairperson, HWRSD School Committee: Roger Kuebel
(Original Signature on file in the Superintendent's Office)