



Weather & Travel FAQ

Q - What are the two forms of severe weather referenced in AP 704 Weather Related Emergencies?

A - Wind Chill Days and Storm Days.

Q - What is a Wind Chill Day?

A - These days impact our school buses. When [Environment Canada](#) site has a wind chill factor of -45 degrees Celsius or colder at 6:00 AM, all buses will be cancelled.

Q - Are there any other times buses are cancelled under the Wind Chill Day?

A - When the wind chill is between -40 degrees Celsius and -45 degrees Celsius, the Division may decide to cancel buses due to road conditions, buses not starting, and weather conditions.

Q - When buses are cancelled, are staff and students required to come to school?

A - Students are expected to attend but parents are encouraged to use their discretion.

Q - When does a Storm Day occur?

A - Storm Days may be caused due to weather conditions, road closures or reports of impending weather that may create visibility and road conditions that make travel unsafe. Buses don't run and sometimes schools are closed.

Q - What do staff do if schools are closed?

A - Staff shall work from home and be accessible for school communication.

Q - Who and how is the decision made to cancel buses or schools?

A – For Wind Chill Days the transportation supervisor and superintendent refer to Environment Canada. On storm days, the Division has bus captains in each catchment area that report to the transportation supervisor, which is then followed up with a conversation between the transportation supervisor and superintendent.

Primary Criteria used:

- Would multiple buses get stuck?
- Would buses start?
- What is the temperature?
- What is the visibility?
- What are the road conditions (ex. Ice or drifting due to lack of windrows)?
- What is the wind strength?
- If we run in the morning, what is the probability we will not be able to run at the end of the day?
- Will our staff and students be safe?

Q – What decision-making power does a bus driver have?

A – If an individual driver feels that they cannot drive a certain road or their total route, they have the ability to use discretion in collaboration with the transportation supervisor. We also expect our volunteers and staff to abide by the AP 704 and not travel if the windchill or weather conditions are not safe, which our school leaders can provide guidance on if requested.

Q - How will I know if school or buses are cancelled?

A - Local radio stations, School Messenger to bus families, text to school leaders from superintendent, SVSD website, SVSD Facebook page, and e-mail to staff from Superintendent all by 7:00 AM. We will also strive to make decisions the night before if we feel we can confidently predict weather or wind-chill closures, this is to help staff, students, and parents cancel hotel rooms to avoid paying for rooms that we don't use.

Q – When no buses run (grid roads poor), why do we cancel all extra-curricular travel even when the highways are open?

A – When the Division decides to cancel transportation or school for a day, we cannot run buses or other divisional vehicles for extra-curricular or curricular trips due to the Division not wanting to create a double standard in relation to our union agreements (ex. Tell our bus drivers it is not safe to drive but then tell our teachers or volunteers they can assume the risk). As well, our liability insurance provider and the provincial risk advisor expect the Division to make concise and consistent cancellations for that day to ensure employees and staff are covered but most importantly that students are safe.

Q – Why would the Division cancel a home tournament when buses are not running for a day when we are not transporting our students?

A – When travel is cancelled in S.V.S.D. we don't want to put the expectation on other divisions to travel as that may lead to a poor decision that leads to a tragedy.

Q – If there is no school or buses running on a Friday, can extra-curricular travel be reconsidered for the Saturday?

A – Yes if conditions have improved, the Division may approve travel for the next day.