

Rocky Boy School District

INSTRUCTION 2221P

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School Closure

All students, parents, and school employees should assume that school will be in session and buses running as scheduled, unless there is official notification from the Superintendent or their designee to the contrary. Such notice will be given via public media, generally radio.

In the event that extremely cold temperatures, wind chill factors, snow, wind or other circumstances require a modification of the normal routine, the Superintendent or their designee will make the modification decision prior to 6:15 a.m. and contact the public radio stations for broadcast to the community and will initiate the emergency fan-out communication procedure to all administrators.

Modification of the normal routine generally occurs in one of two ways. The first circumstance occurs when buses are unable to safely make their normal runs. In this case, bus transportation is suspended, but school is still in session. Students are encouraged to attend, but parents must make the judgment relative to safety for their children to reach school and return at the end of the day. If parents determine it is unsafe to transport their children, the student[s] will be excused from school and the absence not counted against their attendance standing.

The other rare and very unusual circumstance occurs when conditions are such to warrant closure of the schools. In this circumstance, two situations may occur: 1) The first situation occurs when the Governor declares a state of emergency and no state funds are to be denied the school district as a result of such closure. 2) The other situation occurs when a state of emergency may not exist throughout the state, but conditions require closure in Rocky Boy.

When school is closed/cancelled due to weather, all extracurricular and co-curricular activities are cancelled. Coaches and advisors will not conduct practice sessions or other team or club related activities during a school closure.

Limited Exposure and School Recess Procedure

Generally students will go outside for recess unless the temperature falls below -10 degrees Fahrenheit or if the combination of wind chill and temperature necessitate limited outdoor exposure. As the temperature and conditions may vary throughout the day, the Principal or designee will make the final decision regarding outdoor recess. Parents are encouraged to remind students to dress appropriately for all weather conditions. Students should assume that they will be outside for recess every day and should dress for the weather. Questions regarding school recess procedures should be directed to the appropriate school principal, as grades K-6 and 7-12 have different administrators.

Work Schedules and Responsibilities for School Closures

Superintendent

Only the Superintendent or their designee shall have the authority to close schools. The Superintendent will be on duty throughout any existing or potential emergency situation, day or night. All orders which are of doubtful origin should be confirmed with the Superintendent.

Central Administrative Personnel

Central administrative personnel shall be expected to report for duty on their assigned shifts in the event of any school closure insofar as is safely possible. Additional hours may be required, especially of the Maintenance Supervisor, Business Manager and Personnel Director, depending on the nature of the emergency. If it is absolutely impossible for a central administrator to report for duty, the administrator may take the day as a personal leave day or vacation day with the permission of the Superintendent.

Building-Level Administrators, Non-Teaching “Exempt” Personnel, and Key Support Staff

All building-level administrators and non-teaching “exempt” personnel shall report for duty per their normal shifts or as otherwise directed each day during the school closure, together with the head custodian and at least one (1) secretary, insofar as is safely possible. The building administrator shall ascertain that the building has been adequately secured and that any child who mistakenly reports to school [in the event that school has been closed] is properly and safely cared for and returned home per district policy. The administrator and this minimal support staff shall notify other staff and/or other support employees of the situation, and shall respond to telephone questions. When the situation has been stabilized, the personnel who reported to work may choose to return home. An administrator or exempt employee who does not work a normal day shall then adjust his/her work year by memorandum to the Superintendent by the number of hours not worked on the day or days of school closure.

12-Month Classified Employees

In the event of a school closure, 12-month classified personnel may report for duty or not report for duty, as directed by their immediate supervisor. Building secretaries and secretaries to the key central administrative personnel who are required to be on duty are expected to report for duty. If a 12-month classified employee is unable to or does not report for duty, the employee shall complete a leave request form to declare the day as either personal leave, vacation, or leave without pay.

10- and 11-Month Classified Employees

Ten- and 11-month employees may report for duty or not report for duty as directed by their immediate supervisor. If such employees do not report for duty, they shall complete a district leave request form to declare the day as either personal leave, vacation, or leave without pay.

Aides, Food Service Workers, and Other 9 1/4-Month Classified Employees

These employees work only those days when school is in session and are not expected to work when school is not in session. If school has been closed, 9 1/4-month employees should not report for duty unless otherwise directed by their immediate supervisor. 9 1/4-month employees shall complete a leave request form to declare the day as either personal leave, vacation, or leave without pay.

Teachers (Teachers, Librarians, Psychologists, Counselors)

If schools are closed for weather or other emergency conditions, teachers are not expected to report for duty unless directed otherwise. Teachers do not need to submit an absence form. In cases of school closures, it is customary for the days to be made up at another time; thus teachers will typically still fulfill their contract days.

Procedure History:

Promulgated on:

Revised on:

January 21, 2014