

**EMERGENCY CLOSINGS/DELAYED OPENINGS/
EARLY DISMISSALS**

P1106

The Superintendent or designee may close the schools, delay opening, or dismiss the schools early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that threaten the health or safety of students and personnel.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent or designee will consider many factors, including the following:

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, which 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.

The Superintendent or designee will weigh these factors and take action to close the schools only after consultation with public works and public safety authorities. Students, parents/legal 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 closing. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with the School Committee regulations in reporting for work.

In the event that the schools are not closed, the final decision concerning school attendance on stormy days must rest with each individual parent/legal guardian based on local safety factors.

Policy Adopted: April 9, 2001
Policy Reviewed:
Policy Revised:

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Westford, Massachusetts 01886