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# **TCSA** Policies & Procedures

Section 4: Program & Services / Education

Reference: 4.302

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## **Policy Title: Inclement Weather, Student Safety & School Closures**

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### **Policy Statement:**

The TCSA recognizes both the Agency and parents share responsibility for the safety of children traveling to school from home, and home from school during periods of storms, poor visibility, extremely low temperatures, extremely high wind chill factors and other inclement weather conditions.

Ultimately the responsibility to decide whether conditions are safe to send a child to school or not rests with the parent. The responsibility to send children home safely rests with the school. However the Agency recognizes that some children will attend school irregardless of the weather conditions and for the safety of these children, schools should not be closed during inclement weather conditions.

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines to managers to ensure the safety of school children during inclement weather conditions.

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### **Procedures:**

1. Schools should remain open on all sessional days irregardless of inclement weather conditions. All school staff are required to be on duty;
  2. In Behchokò, the principal and the bus manager may jointly determine that it is unsafe to operate school buses between Edzo and Rae when it is -45 C. or below. The school(s) will remain open if bus services are cancelled:
    - a) The principal will inform as many parents as possible of a decision to cancel bus service through the use of regional media outlets such as CBC radio, CKLB FM in Yellowknife and others as appropriate;
  3. Principals must take extra caution sending children home from school during inclement weather conditions by arranging responsible accompaniment home for
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younger children by older brothers or sisters, relatives or staff or calling parents to pickup their children.

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**Authorities:**

TCSA Act 13; Education Act, 117; NWTTA/GNWT Collective Agreement 22.02

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**Approval Dates:** 1992; Revised 1998; Revised May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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