

# Emergency School Closure

## Background

Schools remain open every day, per the school year calendar, for the safety and well-being of all students.

In accordance with the Education Act, and the Regulations, the Division will exercise its responsibility to provide instruction to its students on each day of the approved school year. However, students may be exempted from attendance for reasons as detailed in the following procedures.

## Procedures

### 1. Bussing

Bussed students are exempt from compulsory attendance at school when school buses are cancelled. The School Superintendent shall be informed.

### 2. Mechanical Failure

2.1 If, in the opinion of the Principal, a serious mechanical failure (power, water, heat, sewer back-up, etc.) results in conditions which make instruction difficult, students will be exempted from attendance at school. In the event of a school closure a school plan must be in place to ensure that every child is safely accounted for.

2.2 Staff may be exempted also, if, in the opinion of the Principal, productive activities cannot be performed.

### 3. Holidays Declared by Civic Authorities

3.1 Students are exempted from attendance on any day declared a holiday under Section 165 of the Education Act.

3.2 School staffs will be expected to be in attendance at the school.

### 4. Special Circumstances

Schools will not close due to a funeral or any other community function. With the involvement of the Superintendent of Education school should remain open with replacement staff and teacher substitutes.

## 5. Professional Development

With the approval of the Superintendent of Education, classes for students may be suspended for professional development activities.

## 6. Administration Days

6.1 Classes may be suspended for those days designated as administration days.

6.2 Suspension of the regular school program under sections 5 and 6, is not to exceed a total of ten (10) school days in the regular school year or eight (8) days in any alternate school year. Included in these categories are staff in-service, convention, convention travel, parent-teacher days, etc.

7. It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure communication of temporary shut-downs to parents and bus drivers and others affected by the temporary closure.

7.1 In addition, the Superintendent of Education is to be advised immediately of any temporary shut-down.

7.2 Principals in the La Ronge and Air Ronge schools, because of the communities' accommodating infrastructure, may not feel the need to have temporary shut-downs and are encouraged to use their good judgment and discretion.

*Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 175 Education Act*