

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The Superintendent may close the schools or alter the hours for education and/or operation in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. The School Committee believes it may be prudent, under certain circumstances, to excuse all students and/or staff from attending school, to delay the opening hour or to dismiss early. In the case of emergency closing, the Superintendent should maintain as much of the administrative, supervisory and operational activity as possible to ensure safety and future smooth operations of the school.

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

1. Weather conditions, both existing and predicted.
2. Driving, traffic, and parking conditions that would make transportation to school unsafe for students, parents/guardians or staff.
3. Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition - caused either by nature or human activity - that would make the operation of school difficult or dangerous.
4. Inability of teaching personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.
5. Absence of key personnel that would make safe operation of the school unlikely.

The Superintendent will weigh these factors and take action to close the schools in consultation with public works and public safety authorities and with school officials from neighboring towns, as appropriate.

Students, parents and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closings. When schools are closed for emergency reasons, town and public safety officials will be contacted as required by the school's safety plan.

When schools are closed for emergency reasons, staff members will comply with the terms of their employment.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:4; 71:4A
CROSS REF.: EBC, Emergency Plans

First reading: 06-07-07
Second reading, first vote: 10-04-07
Final vote: 11-04-07