

Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. Here are the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

A 6:00 am announcement could be:

All schools are closed for the day

OR

Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day

OR

All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day

OR

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

An 11:00 am announcement could be:

Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time

AND

Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

Remember:

Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

How does HRSB decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

By 4:30 am, HRSB staff begin to gather information from:

- AMEC weather service which provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
- A meteorologist to discuss details of forecast, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
- Stock Transportation consults bus drivers throughout HRM about road conditions in their area;
- Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
- Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

By 5:30 am, staff make recommendations to the Superintendent (or designate), who makes the final decision and communicates it by 6:00 am.