



NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

<p>Section</p> <p>Transportation – Student Safety</p>	<p>Revised</p> <p>November 24, 2015</p>
<p>SS – 001 Delays or Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather</p>	
<p>General Statement</p>	<p>The health and safety of students in the Districts of Nipissing and Parry Sound is a high priority at all times. The Nipissing-Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) recognizes that inclement weather may occasionally result in the delay or cancellation of transportation services. Decisions in this regard will be in accordance with this guideline and the related Operator Inclement Weather Procedures document (SS – 001 Appendix A).</p> <p>In each situation where an alteration of transportation services is being considered by the NPSSTS, every effort will be made to neither have students miss school unnecessarily nor have students transported in treacherous conditions unnecessarily.</p> <p>Cancellations are always for the entire day: routes cancelled in the morning will not operate in the afternoon and anticipated severe afternoon weather may necessitate cancellations in the morning.</p>
<p>Statement of Responsibility</p>	<p>The NPSSTS General Manager or designate must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bear the sole responsibility and authority to alter transportation services for an entire geographic area (i.e. weather corridor) in the event of severe weather or hazardous road conditions. 2. Under severe weather conditions, contact each school board's Director of Education or their designate to discuss any safety concerns. The Director of Education or designate at each school board will have the sole responsibility and authority to close schools within their board in the event of severe weather conditions. 3. Ensure information is provided to the public via the NPSSTS website (www.npssts.ca) and local media. 4. Provide schools with information on inclement weather procedures (letter or pamphlet). <p>The School must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain open to receive any students attending at the discretion of their parents/guardians. 2. Have staff on duty to provide service as organized by the principal. 3. Have an emergency plan ready to activate if weather conditions become so severe after the start of the school day that it is not possible or safe to send students home. 4. Distribute information on inclement weather procedures, as provided by the NPSSTS, to parents/guardians.

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	<p>5. Under severe weather conditions, have someone remain at the school until 5 p.m. in case a vehicle is unable to complete its run and must return students to the school, as well as to answer any inquiries received by the school.</p> <p>Lead Operators must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect information on road and weather conditions from sources including but not limited to their drivers, other operators in their area, and area road superintendents. 2. Make informed recommendations to the NPSSTS to alter transportation services, when warranted due to inclement weather and/or road conditions (see criteria in the next section). Lead operators are chosen geographically to represent all areas serviced by the NPSSTS. <p>All Operators must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report conditions in their area, using the established phone tree outlined in SS – 001 Appendix A. 2. Ensure every attempt is made to notify affected parents/guardians in the event of delays and/or cancellations, in whole or in part, to any of their contracted routes. 3. Notify affected schools regarding delays and/or cancellations, in whole or in part, to any of their contracted routes. 4. Report to the NPSSTS any delays and/or cancellations, in whole or in part, to any of their contracted routes, including the reasoning for the change to transportation services. <p>Parents/guardians must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine whether or not it is safe to send their children to school, regardless of decisions made by the NPSSTS about transportation services. 2. Provide or arrange for transportation to and from school if they choose to have their children attend school when transportation has been cancelled by the NPSSTS. 3. Check local media and/or the NPSSTS website for information on delays and/or cancellations to student transportation. 4. Know their children's route number(s) and weather corridor. 5. Provide written instructions to their school for use in the event of weather emergencies.
<p>Operational Procedure</p>	<p>ALTERATIONS TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ENTIRETY OF ONE OR MORE WEATHER CORRIDORS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student transportation will be cancelled or delayed when at least one of the following conditions exists within a weather corridor (See Weather Corridor section below) by 5:45 a.m.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Visibility is reduced to less than 100m; 1.2 Road conditions are unsafe for travel; 1.3 The temperature is less than – 35° C or – 40° C with the wind chill factor; 1.4 Severe weather is expected in the area within the next

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	<p style="text-align: center;">10 hours.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. When road and weather conditions are such that student transportation should be cancelled or delayed, lead operators will inform the General Manager or designate by phone, no later than 5:45 a.m. 3. Time allowing, the General Manager or designate may confer with related agencies to corroborate the recommendations. 4. When a decision is made to delay or cancel transportation, the General Manager or designate will endeavour to ensure the NPSSTS website is updated with the appropriate information at 6:00 a.m. and will notify the appropriate radio stations by 6:30 a.m. The Board of Directors and other selected school board staff members will also be notified. 5. Routes in corridors that are delayed may ultimately be cancelled. <p>ALTERATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTES</p> <p>NOTE: Local media announcements are not made in the circumstances outlined in this section. However, information will be available on the NPSSTS website.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the NPSSTS decision is <i>not</i> to alter transportation services and an operator believes the conditions are unsafe for their area, they may delay or cancel their individual routes. Any cancellations are effective for the entire day. As stated above, affected parents/guardians, affected schools and the NPSSTS must be notified of the change. 2. If a driver finds the conditions on their route to be unsafe, they must notify their operator of their recommendation that the route be cancelled, effective for the entire day. As stated above, affected parents/guardians, affected schools and the NPSSTS must be notified of the change. 3. If a driver finds conditions on a portion of their route to be unsafe, they must notify their operator. If this is known prior to the start of the run, an alternate pick-up location may be created. If the problem is encountered en route, transportation for that section of the route will be cancelled. In either case, the alteration is effective for the afternoon run as well. As stated above, affected parents/guardians, affected schools and the NPSSTS must be notified of the change.
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	<p>4. If a driver finds conditions on a portion of their route to be unsafe in the afternoon, they must notify their operator and await further instructions. Students may be dropped off at an alternate point nearby or returned to their school or another designated school after the remainder of the run is completed. When a driver returns students to another designated school, the schools of all affected students must be advised of the situation.</p>
<p>Weather Corridors</p>	<p>Below are the weather corridor names used by the NPSSTS for the purposes of delays and cancellations to student transportation. Detailed text-based descriptions are contained in Appendix B: Weather Corridor Descriptions. Image-based and basic text-based descriptions are available on the NPSSTS website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nipissing District Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Bay • West Nipissing • Mattawa • Callander, East Ferris and Bonfield • Highway 63 (Phelps, Thorne) • Highway 11 North (Temagami, Marten River) • West Parry Sound Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Parry Sound • Britt/Nobel • McDougall/Whitestone • MacTier, Rosseau & Humphrey • East Parry Sound Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North of Hwy 522 • South of Hwy 522