



Office of the Director of Education

Monday, December 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the colder weather upon us, and the likelihood of severe weather conditions, we want to take this opportunity to review **TCDSB's Inclement Weather Protocol** with our schools and families.

From time to time it is necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites. These decisions can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto and are not taken lightly.

If Environment Canada forecasts poor weather conditions (including ice and significant snow), the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) teams will assess and monitor the situation overnight and into the early morning in order to determine any necessary bus cancellations and school closures.

- **If Busses are Cancelled:** Schools will **remain open** since approximately 83% of TCDSB students do not use a school bus. Families must make alternative arrangements to transport their children to school. Students who receive bus transportation receive updates regarding their transportation via TSTG.

If Busses are Cancelled and Schools are Closed: The decision to close schools (which would include child cares and Extended Day Programs) will be determined by the TCDSB and TDSB by 6 a.m. in order for families to make alternative arrangements. In addition to updates being posted on our website and on Twitter, families will receive a notice from School Messenger only if schools are closed. **Please note that Virtual Schools will not operate and **we will not be providing remote learning on days when schools are closed** due to severe weather.*

It's important to note that when schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

While the Inclement Weather Protocol remains the same as it has in previous years, the current COVID-19 pandemic will be an important factor in any decision we make and we will ensure that all necessary health and safety precautions are being followed. Staff will continue to closely monitor inclement weather impacts on TCDSB students, families, staff, and operations, and adjustments will be made if necessary. Please know that the safety and well-being of all students and staff is deeply important to us and we will continue to consult with Toronto Public Health regarding any necessary changes to this protocol.

We would also like to remind families the importance of having up-to-date contact information on file, in addition to having an active School Messenger account. School Messenger is a student absence reporting system that is also used by your child's school and school Board staff to send critical and urgent messages including school closures due to inclement weather. For more information please visit: <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>

We encourage you to keep this information for your reference at home. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's school principal.

By continuing to work together, we can ensure that students arrive at school safely. Stay safe and warm everyone!

Sincerely,



Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education

CC: All Principals
Trustees
Superintendents