



December 13, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

As you know, severe weather can cause safety risks and it becomes necessary to cancel student transportation. **In the event buses are cancelled, schools will be closed but students will have an opportunity to remain engaged in their learning asynchronously at home.** We will be asking classroom teachers to prepare lessons in advance and to make them available using the pre-established Brightspace or Google Classroom.

If Environment Canada forecasts poor weather conditions (including ice, significant snowfall, poor visibility, or extreme cold temperatures), the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG), the 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. This decision will be made by 6 a.m.

What happens if school buses are cancelled?

If buses are cancelled, schools will be closed but students will have an opportunity to remain engaged in their learning asynchronously at home if they choose. Childcare facilities may be open but we ask families to check directly with the childcare provider. Before and after school programs will be cancelled.

How will families be notified?

Families will receive a notice from School Messenger when school buses are cancelled advising them of the need for their child to pivot to remote learning. School bus cancellations will also be posted on the TCDSB website and Twitter.

Please ensure your contact information on file is updated and that you have an active School Messenger account. School Messenger is a student absence reporting system that is also used to send critical and urgent messages, including school bus cancellations due to inclement weather. For more information please visit: <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>



Can my child continue to attend school in person if they don't take the school bus?

We understand that if schools are closed as a result of inclement weather, this may pose some challenges for families. However, we must also consider staff and student safety when weather conditions are poor.

In addition, ensuring that schools maintain COVID-19 protocols becomes an immense challenge during inclement weather. When weather conditions are poor, we know from experience that staff and student attendance at school will vary and in many instances is reduced. Rather than compromising health and safety through the potential of mixing cohorts (with students and staff that can attend school in-person), which could lead to COVID-19 cases and transmission, we will be closing schools when school buses are cancelled.

How will my child learn at home?

The classroom teacher will prepare school work in advance of the inclement weather protocol being activated so that students can continue their learning at home asynchronously using the pre-established Brightspace or Google Classroom.

Staff will continue to closely monitor inclement weather impacts on TCDSB students, families, staff, and operations, and adjustments will be made if necessary.

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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education

CC: Principals & Superintendents
Trustees