



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

Policy Number: E-36

Authority: 18-38/21-20/24-18

### POLICY STATEMENT

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The Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) is committed to having our Catholic schools open each day of the school year. The NCDSB recognizes however, that emergency situations may arise that will require temporary school closure or the early dismissal of students and staff. In all such cases, the NCDSB will consider the safety of students and staff and act accordingly.

### REFERENCES

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*Education Act*

NCDSB Policy

E-35 Inclement Weather

NCDSB Administrative Procedure

APE035 Inclement Weather

APE036-1 Emergency School Closure

APE036-2 Power and Water Outages in Schools

### DEFINITIONS

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#### **Emergency School Closure Day**

Partial or full day designated as an emergency due to the breakdown in essential services (such as hydro, heat and/or water) or other conditions whereby the safety of students and staff would be compromised. An emergency conditions designation may be given to an individual school, a group of schools, all schools and/or Board administrative building depending on the circumstances of the emergency.

### POLICY REGULATIONS

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- 1.0 Schools may be closed for a temporary period on an individual, group or system-wide basis where closing appears unavoidable because of,
  - a) Failure of transportation arrangements; or
  - b) Inclement weather, fire, flood, gas leak, the breakdown of the school heating plant, the failure of an essential utility or a similar emergency.
- 2.0 Schools may also be closed in accordance with the *Education Act*, in case of strike by members of a bargaining unit or a lockout of those members.
- 3.0 Decisions regarding emergency school closure shall be made in the interest of student and staff safety.

- 4.0 Decisions regarding emergency school closure shall be made by the Director of Education.
- 5.0 Each school shall have an Emergency School Closure Plan.
- 6.0 Administrative procedures will accompany this policy, and will be reviewed as required.