



NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: E – Support Services
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1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education of Nebo School District understands that the decision to close, delay the start of, or dismiss early from school due to inclement weather has an impact on families and the community. These decisions are not easy. On rare occasions, the district receives an exceptionally heavy snowfall that can make road conditions hazardous. In an effort to keep students, parents, and employees safe during these rare occasions, this policy establishes procedures and options for District Office personnel to modify school schedules to address weather-related situations. The Board appreciates the cooperation and understanding of parents and employees when it becomes necessary to implement these procedures and modify school schedules due to inclement weather. This policy also addresses situations when a school experiences poor air quality and the protocol for school administrators to follow in making decisions on student outdoor activities.

2. DEFINITIONS

“**Sensitive students**” are defined as those students who have poorly controlled or significant asthma, cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, compromised immune systems, or other respiratory problems.

3. INFORMATION CONCERNING WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS

Individual school administrators should keep the District Office informed of serious weather and road conditions in their particular area.

4. NOTIFICATION

- 4.1** Due to the size of the district, weather patterns may vary widely. There have been times when the entire district has received an exceptionally large amount of snow. There have also been times when only certain areas of the district are impacted by a storm. Due to this fact, the district may implement a “snow day,” a “delayed start,” or an “early dismissal” at a particular school, group of schools in a particular area, or district-wide. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, in consultation with other district personnel, shall make this decision. As soon as a decision is reached, a special announcement will be placed on the home page of Nebo School District’s website (www.nebo.edu) by approximately 6:30 a.m. of the day in question. Simultaneously, information will be sent to those individuals who have signed up for the district’s RSS feed [for more information on the RSS feed, please go to www.nebo.edu and click on the link “Subscribe via RSS”]. In addition, notification will be sent to KSL television and radio for broadcast. However, the broadcasting of such notification may not be as timely as the notice posted on the district’s website or received via the RSS feed. The district may also implement other means of mass communication with students, parents, and employees via text messaging, telephone calls, and/or emails.
- 4.2** During days of questionable weather, if there is no announcement posted on the district’s website, schools will be open and will follow normal schedules.

5. DELAYED START

In certain situations it may be more appropriate to delay the start of school rather than close school for the day. Generally, “delayed starts” are used when weather conditions are rapidly improving. The purpose for delaying the start of school is to allow sufficient time for roadways throughout the communities to be cleared of snow. A “delayed start” may be implemented if there is a question regarding the ability of city, county, and/or state road crews to have the roadways sufficiently cleared in time for school to open. In the event of a “delayed start,” the school beginning time will be delayed for exactly two (2) hours. School dismissal times will not change. Morning-only programs, such as AM Kindergarten classes, will be cancelled.

6. SNOW DAY / CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL

If weather conditions are such that it is difficult or impossible for district personnel to adequately clear driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks at our school buildings and facilities; for school buses to be able to travel safely throughout the district in a timely fashion; or for the vast majority of students and employees to be able to get safely to school, then in such situations school may be cancelled district-wide for the entire day. When an entire school day is cancelled for a “snow day,” it will be made up later in the school year. A “snow day” will only be used when it is obvious that a “delayed start” schedule will not be sufficient to keep the students, parents, and employees of the district safe.

7. EARLY DISMISSAL OF SCHOOL

Since it is very difficult to insure that there will be someone at home to receive a student during the school day, Nebo School District is reluctant to dismiss school early due to inclement weather. Past experience has shown that it is very difficult to reach all families

during the school day, thus requiring many students to remain at school. Accordingly, should a storm develop rapidly during the day, schools will normally maintain a regular schedule. This may mean that school bus routes will take longer and students will arrive at bus stops or at home somewhat later than usual. This practice is preferable to having a student arrive home early to a locked or empty house. In the case of inclement weather during the school day when school is not let out early, parents will retain the discretion to check-out their student early if they feel that it is safer to do so. In that case, parents should contact the school and inform them that they will come to the main office and check-out their student early from school. However, there may be special and unique circumstances when it is prudent to dismiss school early due to inclement weather. The Superintendent or his/her designee will decide when and how students will be dismissed early from school. In such an event, the following procedures will be followed:

- 7.1** School administrators will be expected to supervise their building until they are assured that all students and staff are safely on their way home.
- 7.2** The Superintendent or his/her designee will notify the schools as to the time of dismissal and will coordinate with the Transportation Department when the bus students will be picked up.
- 7.3** For each school, the Superintendent or his/her designee and school administrators will determine specific procedures for parent notification and student check-out and pick-up.

8. SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

During weather related conditions, there are often specific areas within any community in which it is difficult or impossible for parents to bring their students to school. If the district decides that it is appropriate to keep all schools open during inclement weather, the district recognizes that there may be specific areas in which it is not practical or safe for students to attend school that particular day when roads are dangerous or impassable. The district expects every family to make their own good judgment as to whether their children should stay home even if the school is open. Should this be the case, the family should promptly contact the school and inform them that their student will be unable to attend school due to special weather-related circumstances.

9. AIR QUALITY

The Utah Department of Health (“UDOH”) and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) provide “Air Quality Guidance for Schools.” These are recommendations given to schools on when to schedule indoor activities rather than outdoor activities based on air quality. The current recommendations for schools are: (a) when the Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) level is between 35.5 and 55.5, “sensitive students” should be accommodated to avoid outdoor activities; (b) when the PM_{2.5} level is between 55.5 and 90, “sensitive students” and those students experiencing respiratory symptoms should avoid outdoor activities; and (c) when the PM_{2.5} level is 90 or higher, physical activities should be moved indoors for all students. The schools in Nebo School District should generally follow these air quality guidelines, as they may be revised from time to time. On such occasions, the schools should keep the appropriate group of students inside during recess and lunch periods, and school administrators will provide alternative indoor activities for the students. These indoor restrictions do not apply to students who are excused from the school campus during their lunch period. Because of the varying locations and air qualities among the schools throughout Nebo School District, the school

administrator has the discretion of whether to permit outdoor activities notwithstanding the current PM2.5% measurements and recommendations by UDOH and DEQ for Utah County. Parents, with the advice of their health care provider, should inform their school in writing if they believe their child is part of a “sensitive” group who should have limited outdoor physical activity when the air quality is poor.

10. DISTRICT CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

In conjunction with inclement weather, schools shall also comply with any applicable procedures set forth in the Nebo School District’s Crisis Management Plan.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

Utah Division of Air Quality -- www.airquality.utah.gov.

FORMS

None
