



ADMINISTRATION 4400

**TEMPORARY CLOSING
OF SCHOOLS 4470**

1. Rationale

The Education Act, section 19(1) provides that a board may close or authorize the closing of a school or class for a temporary period where such closing appears unavoidable because of:

- 1.1 failure of transportation arrangements;
- 1.2 inclement weather, fire, flood, the breakdown of the school heating plant, the failure of an essential utility or similar emergency.

The Board recognizes the need for any temporary school closing to be planned for, authorized and effected in a manner which ensures that parents and the local school community are informed of the expectations and procedures in the event of a school closing and that the safety of pupils is ensured to the fullest extent possible.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board that all schools will remain open each scheduled school day for those students and staff who are able to attend, unless otherwise authorized by the Director of Education or designate_pursuant to acceptable reasons for temporary closure as set out in the Education Act.

3. Guidelines

The Board recognizes that certain unforeseen circumstances including health and safety concerns, the failure of an essential utility, the failure of essential building systems, or the inaccessibility of a building due to severe inclement weather can necessitate the closing of a school for temporary period.

The Board believes that the principal of a school must have the authority to respond to specific health and safety and essential utility/building system failure related emergencies. In such circumstances the principal will take any action necessary to ensure the immediate safety of students and staff and will then consult with the Superintendent of Education and with the Superintendent (or designate) responsible for Facility Services in the determination of further emergency response.

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4. The Director of Education is authorized to establish administrative procedures to implement this policy.

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