



To: Parents

Re: Policy Concerning Severe Inclement Weather and the Emergency Closing of School

All school buildings have a Weather Alert radio that receives Tornado Watch and Warning alerts directly from the National Weather Service at Metropolitan Airport.

**TORNADO WATCH:** Notifies the public that weather conditions are of the kind that may spawn tornados.

**TORNADO WARNING:** Notifies the public that an actual tornado has been sighted both by radar and visually, and a more definite area is described.

The Emergency Weather Policy of the Fraser Public Schools District is as follows:

1. A severe rain occurs at the time of dismissal: The building principal shall exercise his/her best judgment in terms of the dress of the students, the duration of the heavy rain, etc.
2. A TORNADO WATCH alert during school hours: Students will remain in school to avoid panic, confusion and other safety risks inherent in dismissing school early, i.e. parents not home, emergency contact not home, dropping students at bus stop without parents notification, etc. Parents wishing to pick up their children during a Tornado Watch may do so without loss of attendance credit.
3. A TORNADO WARNING alert while students are still in the school building: The students shall be kept in school and tornado drill procedures will be followed. A specialist in tornados and architecture has designated shelter areas in each building. It should be understood that school buildings are not designated as Tornado shelters. However, places in the building have been designated as the safest possible areas in case of emergency.

A TORNADO WARNING is the most severe alert given. The WARNING is only given if a Tornado has been sighted in the area. When a Tornado Warning is sounded, everyone, students and staff in the school, parents at home, everyone is asked to take shelter immediately.

Movement in and out of the building due to parents picking up students during a WARNING should not occur. Picking up students puts the children, staff and the parents in unsafe areas inside and outside of the building. Because of this, we ask that parents not pick up your children during a TORNADO WARNING.

What does happen during a TORNADO WARNING:

- \* Students and staff remain in school in designated areas until the TORNADO WARNING is lifted.
- \* No buses will run until TORNADO WARNING is lifted.
- \* If TORNADO WARNING occurs just prior to the normal school closing time, no buses will run and students will remain in designated areas in the school until the WARNING is lifted.
- \* *Buses will begin runs from the point they stopped until all runs are completed (will most likely*

be later than usual). \* Students who walk to school will be released for home when the **WARNING** is lifted.

4. **Tornado Sirens:** Macomb County has tapped into the Fraser tornado siren system making the system react to severe weather conditions anywhere in the county. This means that the sirens will sound the tornado warning if such conditions are present anywhere in Macomb. When the alarms sound, the school district's immediate reaction will be to treat the situation as a tornado warning, and the school district's central administration will check with Fraser's Department of Public Safety for the immediate conditions. The warning status will remain in effect until the district's central administration receives clearance from the Department of Public Safety.

## **POLICY CONCERNING SEVERE INCLEMENT WEATHER AND THE EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL Procedures for the Emergency Closing of School**

### **Closing of School Prior to School Opening in the Morning:**

There may be occasions that necessitate closing of a school or all schools for the safety and well being of students and staff, i.e. snow, ice, utility failure, civil defense, etc. If a closing is required, parents will be notified through local radio, electronic communication via school messenger, and television stations when time and circumstances permit. Parents and students should listen to the radio, watch television or check news web sites in the morning for the school closing report.

### **Closing of School During the School day:**

Only in extreme emergency circumstances will a school or all schools be closed during the school day. In the majority of situations, it is safer for students to remain in school rather than be released. If, however, it should become necessary to close school during the school day, the following procedures will be followed.

Parent fan-out started (elementary only) Walkers released for home Buses will make their take home runs in the following order, with each run requiring about thirty (30) minutes:

Fraser High School, 9th through 12th Richards Middle School, 7th and 8th, and St. Johns Elementary, DK through 6th.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE!!**

Since closing school during the school day by its very nature creates confusion and it is difficult to notify all elementary parents, such a closing of an elementary school will only be made as a last resort—it has not been done in over 10 years. Each parent should review thoroughly with their children the route they should take home or to an alternate home. **STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE ALTERNATIVE HOME TO GO TO.** When you have only one alternative for your child, that person may not be home, i.e. shopping, visiting, etc., so it is important to prearrange other alternative homes to assure your child will have a safe destination in this type of emergency.

**ATTACHED IS A REMINDER NOTICE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES TO KEEP IN A HANDY PLACE.**

**David M. Richards, Ph.D. Superintendent**

# INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

## **TORNADO WATCH** - Least Severe Warning

- \* School continues as normal.
- \* Parents may pick up their children early. However, the school prefers that children remain until normal school closing.

## **TORNADO WARNING** - Most Severe Warning

- \* Students remain in school in designated Tornado areas along with all school personnel.
- \* No buses until Warning is lifted.
- \* Students will not be released.
- \* Everyone, students, staff, parents, everyone should be in a safe area wherever they are at the time of the Warning. Release of students during a Tornado Warning puts everyone involved in danger. Your cooperation in this is appreciated.

*"A caring district — working together"*