

Administrative Guidelines

FACILITIES

Policy 703.7-G
(previously Policy 903.7-G)

Closing of Schools

Schools provide an important public service to the community. Closure has a significant impact on tens of thousands of families who are already challenged by the snow event that schools also face. Those in the community with the least resources are least able to manage and are most affected by a decision to close schools. Consequently, schools will not be closed due to snow or other weather conditions unless these result in a declaration of a civic emergency by the Richmond Emergency Management Office, emergency vehicles cannot access schools expeditiously or there is damage to a particular school which creates an unacceptable safety risk.

During snow events it is common for police and other authorities to advise citizens to avoid unnecessary travel. These advisories do not constitute direction to close public facilities and should not be interpreted as implying school closure.

Staff, students and parents should assume that schools will be open every day during the school year. During a snow event, or other weather event, there will be no public announcement that schools are open. Only closures will be announced.

Should it become necessary to close schools, that decision will be made as early as possible - no later than 6:00 a.m. - and announced via the following media outlets: CKNW AM 980 radio, News AM 1130 radio, CBC AM 690 radio, Fairchild AM 1470 radio, CHQM FM 103.5 radio, CBC television, BCTV, City TV and CTV BC.

In addition, a scrolling notice will be placed on the district web site and a voice message on the district switchboard (604-668-6000).

In the fall of each year, prior to any anticipated snow event, schools will inform parents about school and district procedures. This notice will include an explanation that schools will remain open except under extreme emergency conditions.

An explanation of school closure conditions and announcements will also be placed on the District web site in advance of any anticipated snow event. (See text appended)

Schools will not be closed during the school day because of snow or .

