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Statewide Transportation Inclement Weather/Emergency Closing/Delay Policy for Students with Disabilities

Many of the policies below are consistent with your past transportation experience but some may be different because there are students from **multiple school districts** on many of the statewide buses. In order to avoid confusion and errors during inclement weather, it is imperative that schools, parents, and guardians understand and comply with the policies.

School Closing: If **either** your resident public school district **or** your student's destination school district is closed then there will be **no** school bus transportation provided that day. If your child's school of attendance makes the choice to stay open, even though the district it resides within is closed, then please note that there will be **no** school bus transportation provided that day.

School Delay: Students from multiple districts may ride on your child's bus in the morning, and if **any sending district** represented on your student's bus is delayed then all students riding that bus will be on a delayed schedule. Our inclement weather page includes a link to a list of buses going to your child's school. Use your bus route number to find which other districts are on your child's route. **You must check the status of each of the school districts on your route** in order to determine if your child's bus will be delayed. The most up-to-date information for all of the statewide bus routes can be found on our website. Please always check the website for the latest information at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/AdditionalResources/StudentTransportation.aspx> and search for the Inclement Weather link.

Early Release: Since students from multiple districts may ride your child's bus home, if **any receiving district** represented on your student's bus releases early then all students on that bus will be released early following the district with the earliest release time (i.e., If one district on your route releases at noon and another at 1:00 pm, then the bus will follow the noon release time.) Again, your particular bus and all the districts represented on it can be found on the website. You must **check the status of each of the districts on your route** to determine if your child has an early release.

Also, be aware that if the **district** your child's **school of attendance** resides in is released early, the students from your school riding statewide buses will be released early. Historically, schools educating students with disabilities have not put students on buses for early dismissal until a parent or contact has been reached. This same arrangement will continue on the statewide busing system. Statewide buses are directed to wait for a maximum of fifteen extra minutes for a contact to be reached. In a situation where no contact has been made, the student will remain at the school and the parent must make arrangements with the school as to when the child will be picked up. Therefore, please make sure your school and TransPar have more than one working contact number for your student. For safety reasons, no statewide buses will be returning to schools once they have left the grounds and are en route.

Individual School Facility Closings: If a specific school has a facility problem such as no heat and needs to close early the statewide Transportation system will coordinate bus transportation on a case by case basis

Where to find Inclement Weather information:

Public school districts post school closings, delays and early releases on the following:

- NBC Channel 10 Providence weather page closing/delays tab or direct link <http://www2.turnto10.com/jar/weather/>
- ABC Channel 6 Providence weather page closing tab or direct link <http://www.abc6.com/category/184901/closings-and-delays>
- Local radio stations

Please check these sites and/or your local radio stations for the status of districts and schools. Remember to check the status of the districts represented on your student's bus, as well as the district your child's school of attendance is located within, in order to determine your student's school bus transportation status.

If you have any questions please call TransPar, the System Manager, at 401-222-5024.

Your child's safe transportation to and from school is our top priority.

Telephone (401)222-5024 **Fax** (401)222-5025 **TTY** (800)745-56575 **Website:** www.ride.ri.gov

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