

**ADMINISTRATION 4400**

**TEMPORARY CLOSING  
OF SCHOOLS 4470**

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**1. Rationale**

- 1.1 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:
- 1.1.1 failure of transportation arrangements; and,
  - 1.1.2 inclement weather, fire, flood, the breakdown of the school heating plant, the failure of an essential utility or similar emergency.
- 1.2 Section 19(2) of the *Education Act* provides information in the case of a bargaining unit strike or lockout, that the board may close one or more schools if:
- 1.2.1 the safety of pupils may be endangered during the strike or lockout;
  - 1.2.2 the school building or the equipment or supplies in the building may not be adequately protected during the strike or lockout; or,
  - 1.2.3 the strike or lockout will substantially interfere with the operation of the school.
- 1.3 The board recognizes the need for any temporary school closing to be planned for, authorized, and effected in a manner which ensures that parents/guardians and the local school community are informed of the expectations and procedures in the event of a school closing, and that the safety of students is ensured to the fullest extent possible.

**2. Policy**

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) 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**

- 3.1 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 a temporary period. A temporary closing may also be necessitated by a bargaining unit strike or lockout.

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3.2 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 of Business and Facility Services (or designate), in the determination of further emergency response.

**4. Administrative Procedures**

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

**APPROVED MAY 19, 1998  
REVISED NOVEMBER 26, 2003  
REVISED FEBRUARY 23, 2011  
REVISED MAY 27, 2015  
REVISED DECEMBER 20, 2017  
REVISED JANUARY 18, 2023**

***APM A3020***