

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Issue 3 of 2023 September READY FOR OSBA
Title	Emergency Closings
Code	EBCD
Status	

~~This is the OSBA sample policy.**~~**

Emergency Closings

The Superintendent may close the schools, dismiss students early or delay the opening of schools in the event of hazardous weather, other emergencies that threaten the safety or health of students or staff members, law enforcement emergencies or other circumstances where the Superintendent determines a closure, dismissal or delay is necessary. It is understood that the Superintendent takes such action only after consultation with transportation and other necessary authorities.

Parents, students and staff members are informed early in each school year of the method of notification in the event of emergency closings or early dismissals.

The Board adopts a plan to make up a maximum of the number of hours equivalent to three days of instruction for closures due to disease epidemic, hazardous weather conditions, law enforcement emergencies, inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to school's operation, damage to a school building or other temporary circumstances due to utility failures rendering the school building unfit for school use. This provision does not apply for schools operating blended or online learning programs.

(Permissive language)

~~**The District may choose to make up a maximum of three days via online lessons and/or blizzard bags.**~~

Legal References

ORC 3313.48
ORC 3313.482

Cross References

EBC, Emergency Management and Safety Plans
IC/ICA, School Year/School Calendar
ID, School Day

CONTRACT REFS.:

Teachers' Negotiated Agreement
Support Staff Negotiated Agreement

NOTE: House Bill 33 (2023) establishes new requirements whereby school districts must adopt a plan to provide instruction via online delivery in order to make up hours in that school year for which it is necessary to close schools for disease epidemic, hazardous weather conditions, law enforcement emergencies, inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to school's operation, damage to a school building or other temporary circumstances due to utility failures rendering the school building unfit for school use.

The plan must be designed to ensure continuity of learning for students during a school closure and include all of the following:

- a statement that the school, to the extent possible, will provide for teacher-directed synchronous learning in which the teacher and students are interacting in real time on a virtual learning platform during the closure;*
- the school's attendance requirements, including how the school will document participation in learning opportunities and how the school will reach out to students to ensure engagement during the closure;*
- a description of how equitable access to quality instruction will be ensured, including how the school will address the needs of students with disabilities, English learners and other vulnerable student populations;*
- the process the school will use to notify staff, students and parents that the school will be using online instruction;*

- *information on contacting teachers by telephone, email, or virtual learning platform during the closure and*
- *a description of how the school will meet the needs of staff and students regarding internet connectivity and technology for online delivery of instruction.*

The plan must provide for making up any number of hours, up to a maximum of the number of hours that are the equivalent of three school days.

The plan also must include the written consent of the teachers' union.

Joint vocational school districts may include additional hours in their plan as a result of one or more of their member schools being closed; such additional hours may include additional online lessons, planned student internships, student projects or other options specified in the plan.

THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY

Legal

[ORC 3313.48](#)

[ORC 3313.482](#)

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement

CONTRACT REF.: Support Staff Negotiated Agreement