



## Bus Cancellation Communication

As you may or may not be aware, Buffalo Trail Public Schools revised their [Jurisdictional Bus Cancellation Administrative Procedure](#) in light of last year's long February cold snap. The Board wants to ensure that learning continues when buses are not operating. BTPS is committed to continuing classes and providing alternative means of instruction if students cannot be safely transported to school.

This year, the decision to cancel buses will be made at 6:00 p.m. the night before, and the decision to run or not will be made based on the **projected** temperatures for the morning run between **6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.** when students would be out waiting for their school bus, and for the afternoon run between **3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.** when the students would be waiting for the bus at the school, riding the bus, or walking to their homes after their bus run. If the projected temperature is -40C with or without the wind-chill at any point during these times the rural buses will not run. Parents will be notified by their bus drivers and the BTPS website [www.btps.ca](http://www.btps.ca) will be updated. New this year, the Wainwright and Vermilion intown/camp buses will always run, unless parents are notified by the bus contractor/driver that they are not able to operate. If the temperature for the afternoon is not projected to be -40C with or without the wind-chill, the buses will run and will take students home who may have been driven in by parents. The same may go for other days when the temperature is not projected to be -40C with or without the wind-chill in the morning, but colder in the afternoon the buses will run in the morning, but not in the afternoon.

We encourage parents to ensure their children are always dressed for the cold weather in the event of an emergency. We also know teenagers don't think wearing ski pants is "cool", so we require that if they don't want to wear their winter clothes that they carry them with them on the school bus.

Our goal is always to operate the school buses when it is safe to do so. On any given day, bus drivers can make the decision to run or not, or to modify their route if snow and/or impassable roads are an issue. We trust our drivers to make the safe decision, as they know their roads and families the best.

BTPS will use [the Weather Network](#) website at designated locations for their 6:00 p.m. forecasts. The jurisdiction will be divided into five areas. A decision at the jurisdictional level to cancel buses may affect one, two, three, four or all five areas:

- South: Provost, Czar, Amisk, Hughenden (Location of reading is Czar)
- Central: Irma, Wainwright (rural), Edgerton, Chauvin (Location of reading is Wainwright)
- West: Innisfree, Mannville (location of reading is Innisfree)
- North: Vermilion (rural), Clandonald, Dewberry, Marwayne (Location of reading is Clandonald)
- East: Kitscoty (rural), Paradise Valley and Lloydminster (Location of reading is Kitscoty)

As you know, weather people have been known to be wrong or temperatures can change suddenly, for this reason our predictions may be wrong, but they are just that...predictions. We will make the decision to cancel or not based on the information we have. We will not waiver from the 6:00 p.m. decision once it is made so parents can plan accordingly. You can subscribe to your child's bus route for updated status notifications by clicking [here](#).

Please note it is parent responsibility to let your child's school know if they will not be in attendance on any day your child's bus is not running. If you do not let the school know, they will be checking to ensure your child is at home or is on their way to school.

If you have any questions, you can email the Transportation Department at [transportation@btps.ca](mailto:transportation@btps.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Mannix".

Chrysti Mannix  
Director of Transportation, Buffalo Trail Public Schools