

Transportation Weather Policy – Niagara County

Special Needs Pre-Kindergarten & Early Intervention Programs

Purpose

This policy establishes clear procedures for transportation during inclement weather or emergency conditions to ensure the safety of students, families, staff, transportation personnel, and partner agencies across all participating school districts and counties.

1. District Closures

When the public school district in which the program is physically located announces a closure:

- All transportation for the program is canceled.
- No students will be transported from any district or county, even if their home district remains open.

2. District Remote Learning Days

If the district where the program is located announces a remote learning day due to inclement weather and NOT a closure:

- Transportation will continue as normal, unless the program itself announces a late opening or a closure.
- If the program adjusts its schedule, transportation will follow the program's schedule, not the district's.

3. Multi-County or Multi-District Enrollment

Programs serving students from multiple counties or districts may encounter differing weather conditions.

A. One County/District Closed or Delayed

If one county/district is closed or delayed while another remains open, the program must determine whether transportation should continue for the unaffected county/district or if the program will delay or close for all students.

B. Program Decision

The program will communicate its decision to all transportation providers, families, and VMC Consultants Inc. Transportation will follow the program's final determination.

4. Transportation Terminal Closures & Unsafe Road Conditions

If a transportation company's terminal is located in a district that is closed, or if the roads are deemed unsafe by the transportation provider, transportation will be canceled for the entire day, even if the program or other districts remain open.

5. When Transportation Is Canceled but Programs Remain Open

If transportation is canceled but the program remains open:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their child.
- The County emphasizes that student safety and access to education and therapies remain the highest priorities.
- Families should use their best judgment regarding travel conditions.

6. Communication Procedures

The program will notify families, transportation providers, and VMC Consultants Inc. of any schedule changes as early as possible. Communication may occur through phone, text, email, website postings, or local media listings. Families should monitor announcements from their home district, the district where the program is located, and the program itself.

7. Safety Commitment

The safety of students, families, and transportation personnel is the foundation of all decisions. Transportation providers may cancel or delay service if conditions are unsafe, and the County supports these decisions.