Mission, Educational Objectives, Strategies and Planning

DISCONTINUATION OF CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

BP 0530(a)

The Superintendent or designee may order one or more emergency closure days if conditions exist posing a threat to the health or safety of students, staff, or the community. To the extent practicable, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the Department of Education and Early Development and with federal and state health and safety agencies. In all cases of emergency closure, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board and the Department of Education and Early Development, in writing, within 24 hours.

**Note:** If a school is temporarily closed for disciplinary or safety reasons, the facility must remain closed for all purposes until the school is reopened.

**Note:** Under 4 AAC 05.090(h), a district may, on a form prescribed by the Department, apply to the Commissioner for approval to substitute an emergency closure day for a day in session or a day used for in-service training. The Commissioner may approve all, none, or some of the days the school was closed as emergency closure days, and require that the district replace the remaining days. In determining whether to approve, deny, or partially approve the request, the Commissioner will consider (1) the extent to which the district implemented a continuation of educational services plan during the closure; (2) the depth and quality of the educational services the district provided to students during the closure; (3) if the district had warning of the pending emergency, the extent to which the district used the warning to prepare for continuation of educational services specific to the pending emergency; (4) the communication with families of students to facilitate delivery of educational services during the emergency; (5) the nature and duration of the emergency; (6) whether teachers and administrators were in on-duty status working to deliver educational services during the emergency; (7) the academic needs of the students in the district; and (8) the public interest.

As soon as reasonable after ordering an emergency closure, the Superintendent or designee shall submit a modified calendar to the Department. The calendar will be modified using one or more of the following options:

a. if the original calendar provided for more than 180 days, reduce the number of days in session or days used for in-service training for the school, so the combined number of days in session and days used for in-service training under the modified calendar remains in compliance with state law (AS 14.03.030);

b. designate emergency closure days in place of days in session or days used for in-service training if the emergency closure days have been approved by the Commissioner of Education;

c. designate additional days that the school must be in session to replace school closure days that were not reduced under (a) of this subsection or approved as emergency closure days by the Commissioner.
DISCONTINUATION OF CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS (continued)  BP 0530(b)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

If a school is temporarily closed for disciplinary or safety reasons, the facility must remain closed for all purposes until the school is reopened.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.03.030 School Term
14.33.120 School Disciplinary and Safety Program

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
4AAC 05.090 Discontinuation of closure of schools

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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