



**Inclement Weather School Bus Cancellations
Procedures and Weather Zones
STOPR Fall/Winter Newsletter**

Attention: All Schools

Date: November 1, 2023

From: Student Transportation of Peel Region

RE: Inclement Weather School Bus Cancellations - Procedures and Weather Zones

Attached please see the STOPR Fall/Winter Newsletter. Kindly share with your school community.

The newsletter covers STOPR's inclement weather procedures and explains the "weather zones" that are used to communicate school bus cancellations on inclement weather days. The newsletter also provides winter weather tips for parents/guardians and for students riding a school bus.

For school administrators, we have also attached a Q & A sheet which answers some of the most asked questions regarding STOPR's weather zones.

It is important that all families know what weather zone their school is assigned to. Therefore, we have also included a template letter that you may use to inform your community of your school's weather zone. Please feel free to use or modify this letter as you see fit.

If you are unsure of what weather zone your school is located in, please visit our website at stopr.ca and click on the inclement weather tab. There you will find a list of schools and their weather zones.

Most families reside in the same weather zone as their school. In circumstances where the school boundary extends between multiple weather zones, STOPR will provide additional information to individual schools that have families living outside of their schools' weather zone. Specifically, if your school is in Zone 2, but the school boundary extends to Zone 3, STOPR will provide you with information and bus route details affected by a "Zone 3 Only" cancellation.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you from the STOPR team.

As winter weather approaches, it is important that everyone riding a school bus is familiar with STOPR's inclement weather and cancellation procedures.

As part of these procedures, the Region of Peel has been divided into three weather zones as weather conditions may require cancellation in a specific zone or zones. STOPR will monitor weather and road conditions and when it is necessary to cancel transportation due to inclement weather, STOPR will cancel by "weather zone." (i.e., Zone 1, Zone 2 and/or Zone 3)

How do I find out what weather zone my school is in?

It is important that all families know what weather zone their school is assigned to. Please see the weather zone map and weather zone descriptions below.

A complete list of schools and assigned weather zones can also be found on our website at stopr.ca by clicking "Inclement weather."

Parents can go to stopr.ca and log into the Parent/Student Portal and set up an account to access their children's busing information. This information also includes a "Weather Zone" tab that identifies the assigned weather zone for their children's school.

How do I know what zone is cancelled?

When transportation is cancelled due to inclement weather, STOPR will cancel by "weather zone" (i.e., Zone 1, Zone 2 and/or Zone 3).

This information will be communicated through the STOPR twitter account [@STOPRinfo](https://twitter.com/STOPRinfo) and posted on the STOPR website by 6:00 am.

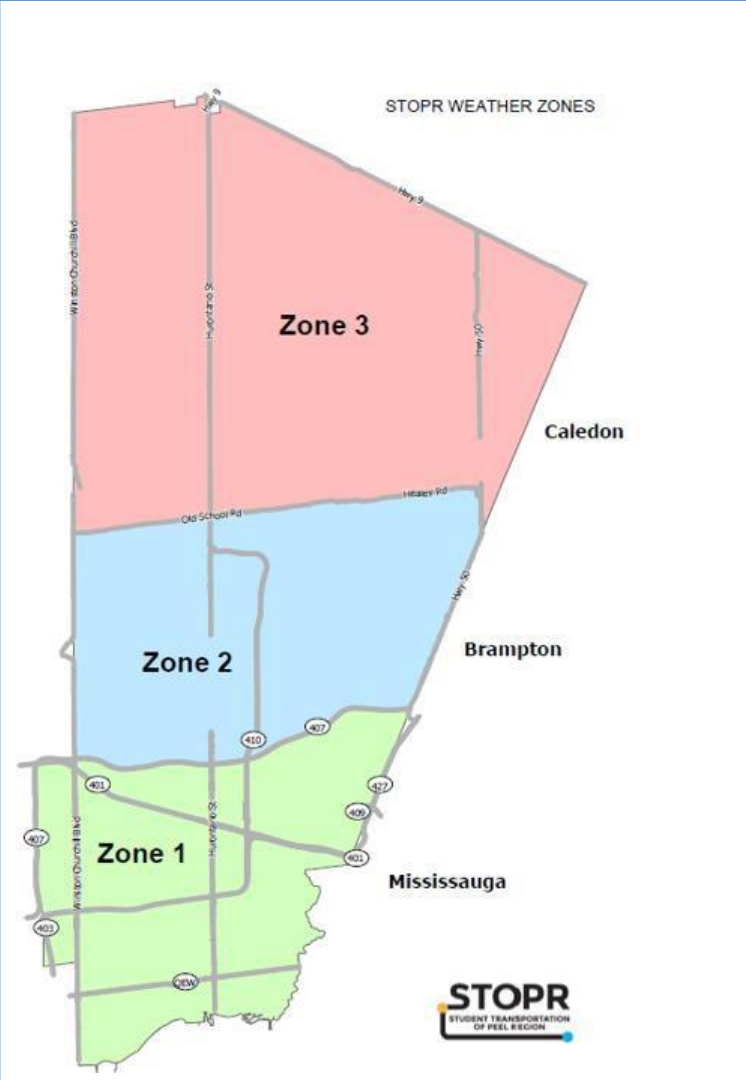
What if I live in a different weather zone than my school?

Most families live within their school's weather zone.

For families who reside outside of their school's weather zone, they should review the STOPR weather zone map and confirm what zone their home address is located within.

On inclement weather mornings, these families will need to monitor the STOPR website for both their "school weather zone" and "home weather zone" for cancellations.

For families who live outside of their "school weather zone," their transportation will be cancelled if either their "school weather zone" or their "home weather zone" is cancelled.



Weather Zone Descriptions:

Zone #1: The City of Mississauga

Zone #2: The City of Brampton**

(**South of Old School Road/Healey Road)

Zone #3: The Town of Caledon**

(**North of Old School Road/Healey Road)



When STOPR cancels “School Bus Transportation” for inclement weather, this includes all regular, special needs buses, vans and taxi runs.

If your school bus is cancelled in the morning, due to inclement weather, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon.

What should you do if your bus is late or cancelled?

It is important to talk to your children about what to do if their school bus is delayed or cancelled on inclement weather mornings.

Do your children have a plan if their bus does not arrive?

Do your children have an emergency contact person? (i.e., neighbour, friend, relative etc.) who they can call or go to if their bus is delayed or does not arrive to pick them up in the morning.

Bus Route Numbers:

All STOPR bus routes have an assigned route number. This number will be displayed in the side window of your bus.

It is important that you know your child’s bus route number, not only to ensure your child is boarding the correct bus each morning, but you will also need the route number when you check for delay or cancellation info on our website.

For more information on STOPR’s inclement weather procedures and weather zones, please visit our website at stopr.ca and click on “Inclement Weather.”

School bus winter safety tips to help keep your children safe:

- ✓ Make sure children are dressed appropriately for cold weather as unexpected mechanical problems with a school bus can occur.
- ✓ Know your bus pickup time in the morning and always arrive at your bus stop at least 5 minutes early. Allow extra time to get to your school bus stop during the winter months.
- ✓ Remember, “we wait for the bus, the bus does not wait for us.”
- ✓ Parents/Guardians are responsible for the safe conveyance of their children to and from the bus stop location.
- ✓ Kindergarten and grade one students must always be accompanied to/from their bus stop location.
- ✓ Kindergarten and grade one students must always be met at the bus stop at the end of the day by a parent/guardian or caregiver.



STOPR encourages all parents to set up an account on stopr.ca to access their children’s bus information and receive automatic delay and cancellation alerts. As a subscriber, you can receive alerts by email or SMS text message. Go to stopr.ca and click on “Parent/Student login” and click “Create Account.”

Inclement Weather Q & A for School Administrators:

Question:

What if a family at my school lives outside our school's weather zone?

Answer:

Most students do live within their school's assigned weather zone.

In cases where a family lives outside of their schools' weather zone, they should review the STOPR weather zone map and confirm what zone their home address is located within.

On inclement weather mornings, these families will need to monitor the STOPR website at stopr.ca for cancellations in their "school weather zone" and their "home weather zone."

It is important for these families to understand that their transportation will be cancelled if either their "school weather zone" cancels OR their "home weather zone" cancels.

In a scenario where transportation is cancelled in their "home weather zone", but their "school weather zone" remains open, it will be the parent's decision if their child will attend school in person that day. It will also be the parent's responsibility to take their child to and from school when transportation is cancelled in their "home weather zone."

Question:

How do I find out what "weather zone" my school is assigned to?

Answer:

If you are unsure what weather zone your school is located within, please go to stopr.ca and click on the "Inclement Weather" tab, then click on "**Weather Cancellations**" and then click on "**How do I know what weather zone my school is in.**"

You will find a complete list of schools and assigned weather zones.

Question:

Besides looking at the STOPR Weather Zone Map, where can I find further detail on the actual boundaries and descriptions of the weather zones?

Answer:

Weather Zone Boundaries and Descriptions:

Weather Zone	Boundaries	Communities
Zone #1	North: Highway 407 South: Lake Ontario East: Etobicoke Creek, Highway 427 West: Winston Churchill Blvd/Ninth Line	Mississauga, Meadowvale Streetsville, Port Credit Cawthra Park, Malton.
Zone #2	North: Old School Road, Healey Road South: Highway 407 East: Highway #50 West: Winston Churchill Blvd	Brampton, Bramalea, Southfields.
Zone #3	North: Highway #9 South: Old School Road, Healey Road East: Caledon King Townline West: Winston Churchill Blvd	Alton, Belfountain, Bolton, Caledon East, Caledon Village, Palgrave.

The above chart provides further detail on STOPR’s three weather zones and is part of STOPR’s Inclement Weather Procedure STOPR029. To review the entire procedure, please go to stopr.ca and click on “Inclement Weather” and click on “Weather Cancellations.”

Question:

Can parents find their children’s weather zone by looking up their children’s busing information in BP Web?

Answer:

Yes. Parents should log into the **Parent/Student Portal** at stopr.ca and look for the new “Weather Zone” tab under their child’s busing information.

Reviewed: **October 2023**

Sample Template Letter – use this letter to inform families of your schools’ weather zone
Place School Letterhead Here

Date: <insert>

Attention Parents/Guardians:

Re: Inclement Weather School Bus Cancellations and Weather Zones

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) has established a “weather zone” procedure for the purposes of monitoring and communicating school bus cancellations on inclement weather days.

School Bus cancellation options now include **Zone 1, Zone 2, and/or Zone 3.**

Please note that our School has been assigned to Weather Zone __.

Therefore, all our parents/students should be checking the STOPR website and twitter account for Zone__ cancellations this winter.

School Bus Cancellations will be communicated by “Weather Zone” through the STOPR website stopr.ca and the STOPR twitter account [@STOPRinfo](https://twitter.com/STOPRinfo) by 6:00 am each morning.

We encourage parents to visit the STOPR website at stopr.ca and click on the “Inclement Weather” tab to review the STOPR weather zone map and all inclement weather procedures.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Sincerely

<insert name>

Principal