Transportation – Bus/Emergency Snow Routes

Section 1. Philosophy. The philosophy of East Allen County Schools is to keep school open and run buses except under adverse weather conditions that result in unsafe road conditions for school buses. East Allen County Schools may use emergency snow bus routes when snow and ice accumulations do not require a district-wide closure.

Section 2. Guidelines. Under certain conditions, buses will generally travel only those roads that have been plowed, and salted or sanded. Normally, in such situations, buses will only travel State roads, Allen County Highway Department designated “primary” roads, and primary municipal streets. Under certain conditions, schools may elect not to travel gravel roads but travel upon others. In such situations, drivers will pick-up/drop-off students on plowed main roads whenever buses cannot make the regular stops on rural roadways or neighborhood streets.

Section 3. Procedure. All emergency snow route bus stops will be at a regular bus route stop. Precise stop times are not possible during emergency snow bus route days. Parents need to identify the nearest bus stop on a main road and decide when to send their children to the emergency snow bus route stops. Students should dress appropriately for inclement weather, especially on emergency snow bus route days.

Section 4. Parental Responsibility. Parents are encouraged to make individual decisions regarding their children’s school attendance and method of transportation during inclement weather conditions that necessitate the use of emergency snow bus routes, especially for preschool, primary, and special education students. If parents decide to rely upon school bus transportation in such inclement weather conditions, they should instruct their children on safe walking and waiting procedures. During such inclement weather days, students should wait for buses at a safe distance from the road. Parents are responsible for the safety of students at bus stops and should remain with their child(ren) at the bus stop until the school bus arrives.

Home pick-ups for general education and special education students may not be possible on emergency snow route days because of time, house location, weather, or traffic conditions. Parents of general education and special education students may be responsible for transporting their students during emergency snow bus route days.
Section 5. **Notification.** When emergency snow bus routes are used, they will be in effect AM, mid-day, and PM, regardless of changing weather conditions. Efforts will be made to identify every current bus stop and its related emergency snow bus stop to ensure the safety and welfare of students. Updates of emergency snow bus route schedules will be sent to schools, parents, and students as they occur, and will be posted at the East Allen County Schools’ website (www.eacs.k12.in.us).

Section 6. **Student Absences.** Student absences due to hazardous road conditions verified by the Director of Transportation and approved by the Office of Student Services will be “absences counted as present.”