

Lowell School District

Transportation Department

Winter Weather – Out of Town Trip Policy

1.0 Purpose

To define the process for determining whether out-of-town bus trips will operate during periods of inclement weather. Student and staff safety is the sole basis for all decisions.

2.0 Approval Authority

- Transportation Director
- Superintendent

3.0 Definitions

- **Special Weather Statement:** Early notice of potential hazardous conditions (not yet an advisory, watch, or warning).
- **Winter Weather Advisory:** 2–4 inches of snow, sleet, or freezing rain expected to cause inconvenience.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** Potential for significant hazardous weather within 48 hours.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** A significant combination of hazardous winter weather is occurring or imminent (e.g., heavy snow, ice, wind).

For more information, visit: National Weather Service Definitions

<https://www.weather.gov/lwx/WarningsDefined#Winter%20Weather%20>

4.0 Trip Approval Process

4.1 No Advisory/Watch/Warning in Effect

- Trip may proceed, even if chains are required.

4.2 Advisory, Watch, or Special Weather Statement in Effect

- Trip requires joint approval from the Transportation Director and Superintendent.

4.3 Winter Storm Warning in Effect

- Trip will be cancelled.

5.0 Driver Discretion

- Drivers may halt or turn around during a trip if conditions become unsafe.
- Drivers have full authority to make safety-based decisions in real time.

6.0 District Flexibility

- Due to the unpredictable nature of winter weather, the district reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines when necessary.

For questions or clarification, contact:

transportation@lowell.k12.or.us

Transportation Office: 541-937-5070

After-Hours Emergency: 541-912-0807