

Emergency School Closures

With the extremely cold temperatures in Montana, some school districts around the state are closed, while others are open. This is a local decision based on the needs of the community. Information on Emergency School Closures can be found on the [School Finance Webpage](#). The document is titled “School District Closures – Unforeseen Emergencies”

It is important to be familiar with the laws but a couple of important reminders are as follows:

1. Trustees should notify the County Superintendent of Schools and the OPI as soon as a school district closure has been declared.
2. Trustees may close school for 1 school day each year for unforeseen emergencies that is not subject to a state funding reduction 20-9-806(2), MCA.
3. If a school has an emergency closure for longer than the one day exception, the Trustees may later adopt a resolution that a reasonable effort has been made to reschedule the pupil-instruction time lost. Not taking this action could result in a reduction to the schools District’s BASE aid.

Adherence to the statutes is necessary to prevent reduction of state entitlement funding for the district.

Please sent notice to the OPI at OPISchoolFinance@mt.gov or call or Amanda Zigan at 406-444-3096 or Barb Quinn at 406-444-3249.