

# **EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS**

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

This school board recognizes and accepts its duty and authority to maintain and operate all the schools under its control for such length of time during the year as may be required. Miss. Code Section 37-7-301(m)

The superintendent of schools may close any or all schools and district offices or dismiss them early because of an epidemic prevailing in the school district, or because of the death, resignation, sickness or dismissal of a teacher or teachers, or because of extreme weather conditions, or because of any other emergency necessitating the closing of the school or schools and offices, in the best interests of the health and safety of students, administration and staff of the district. The superintendent will take such action only after consultation with transportation, emergency management, and weather authorities or other agencies as necessitated by the circumstances. The superintendent shall notify the school board of the decision to close the schools.

In the event the district is required to close the operation of its schools by decision of the superintendent, under the authority provided the superintendent by this school board in the preceding paragraph, due to extreme weather conditions, in the best interests of the health and safety of the students, administration and staff, the school board, by order or resolution adopted and spread on the minutes, may order that the schools of the district shall operate for less than one hundred eighty (180) days. Such order shall specify the number of days that the schools shall operate and be kept in session, and a copy of such order or resolution shall be transmitted to the Mississippi Department of Education for its information. Miss. Code Section 37-13-64(1)

### **Leave Due to Declared Emergency Closures**

The school board may, in its discretion, provide additional administrative leave with pay for all employees (professional, certified, and classified) in the event of an extreme weather emergency.

## **CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY CLOSE SCHOOLS**

In addition to all other power and authority which may now be vested in the school board by the Mississippi Constitution or statutes or both, the school board may close any one or more or all schools in the district when, in its discretion, it determines such closure to be to the best interest of a majority of the educable children of the district, or to the best interest of a majority of the children enrolled in any such school or schools. The school board may also close any one or more schools in the district when the board, in its discretion, determines

such closure will promote or preserve the public peace, order or tranquility of the district. Miss. Code Section 37-65-101

The decision or determination to close any one or more or all schools of the district shall be effectuated and evidenced by an order of the school board directing same, entered upon the minutes of the board, and the same shall be sufficient by an adjudication or determination therein of any one or more reasons authorizing such action as set out in the preceding paragraph, and it shall not be necessary to include in said order any fact or detail other than the said reason or reasons above-mentioned. Any one or more schools of the district which may be closed, as herein provided for, shall remain closed until further order of the school board made and entered upon its minutes opening such school or schools or all schools of the district. Miss. Code Section 37-65-103

The board may, in its discretion, pay all or any part of the salary of all superintendents, principals, teachers and other employees during or for the period when any of the said schools are closed in accordance with Miss. Code Sections 37-65-101 and 37-65-103 and this policy, and funds shall be drawn from the same source or sources as such funds would be drawn to pay such items had the school or schools not been closed. Miss. Code Section 37-65-105

Upon and during the closure, in accordance with Miss. Code Sections 37-65-101 and 37-65-103 and this policy, the students affected thereby may be assigned or transferred, as the case may be, to another school or district, as the case may be, in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi. Miss. Code Section 37-65-107

Upon or during any period of closure in accordance with the provisions of Miss. Code Sections 37-65-101 and 37-65-103 and this policy, any teacher or other employee affected thereby may be, by the school board, placed in any other school within the district, or in a school or schools of another convenient district. Miss. Code Section 37-65-109

Pursuant to and in accordance with Miss. Code Section 37-65-117, the period of time that may elapse during any closure of any school, in accordance with Miss. Code Sections 37-65-101 and 37-65-103 and this policy, shall not be deducted or counted as a deduction from any period of time which, by any other law of the State of Mississippi or policy of this board, such school is required to be operated in any scholastic year. The provisions of any other law of the State of Mississippi setting a minimum time or number of days that any school is required to be operated in any scholastic year shall not prevent the closure provided for in this policy.

**SOURCE:** Jackson Public School District  
**LEGAL SOURCE:** Miss. Code Ann. Sections 37-13-64 and 37-13-65; Miss. Code Ann. Sections 37-65-101, 37-65-103, 37-65-105, 37-65-107, 37-65-109 and 37-65-117  
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