



Board Policy on Standard Protocol for Extreme Weather

Purpose and Scope

This protocol establishes standardized procedures to protect the safety of scholars and staff during extreme weather conditions that may affect outdoor physical activities. It incorporates the California Department of Education (CDE) standardized guidelines under EC § 33355, as well as best practices from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

The goal is to proactively monitor conditions, modify or relocate activities when necessary, and prevent weather-related illnesses such as heat illness, respiratory distress from poor air quality, or other hazards.

Definitions of Extreme Weather Conditions

Extreme weather includes conditions warranting modification or cancellation of outdoor physical activities, based on:

- Heat: Using the CDPH Heat Risk Grid (or equivalent National Weather Service Heat Risk forecast).
 - Level 2 (Orange/Moderate): Increase precautions.
 - Level 3 (Red/Major) or Level 4 (Magenta/Extreme): Modify or cancel outdoor activities, especially during peak heat (typically 10 a.m.–5 p.m.).
- Air Quality: Air Quality Index (AQI) from local Air Quality Management District.
 - AQI 101–150 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups): Limit strenuous activity for sensitive scholars.
 - AQI 151+: Cancel or move strenuous outdoor activities indoors.
- Other Conditions: Heavy precipitation/flooding, high winds, lightning, extreme cold, or wildfire smoke that pose safety risks.

Criteria: Site administrators will use real-time data and forecasts to determine when conditions are extreme. Decisions prioritize pupil safety over the continuation of the activity.

Monitoring Procedures

- Daily Checks: Designated staff (e.g., site administrator or PE lead) will monitor forecasts via:
 - National Weather Service Heat Risk Tool.
 - CDPH Heat Risk Grid.
 - Local Air Quality Management District (e.g., Sacramento Metro AQMD for the Sacramento area).
 - Alerts from county public health or emergency management.
- On-Site Monitoring: Use thermometers, wet-bulb globe temperature (if available), and visual checks for signs of distress.
- Advance Planning: Check forecasts at least 24–48 hours in advance for scheduled activities.

Decision-Making Responsibilities

- Superintendent's Office/Campus Principal: Final authority on modifications or cancellations.
- PE Teachers, Coaches, and Staff: Report conditions and implement changes.
- Timeline: Decisions made as early as possible, ideally before the instruction day begins or the activity starts.

Criteria for Modifying or Canceling Activities

Heat Risk Level	Recommended Actions
0–1 (Green/Yellow)	Normal activities with increased hydration and shade breaks.
2 (Orange)	Shorten duration, increase rest/hydration breaks (every 15–20 min), move to shaded areas, monitor sensitive scholars closely.
3–4 (Red/Magenta)	Cancel or relocate strenuous outdoor activities to cooler times or indoors. Limit to light activity or rest.
Air Quality (AQI)	Actions
101–150	Reduce intensity/duration for sensitive groups (asthma, etc.).
151+	Move indoors or cancel strenuous activity.

Similar tiered responses apply to rain, wind, or other hazards.

Indoor and Alternative Activities

- Designate climate-controlled indoor spaces (gym, classrooms, multipurpose rooms) for PE/recess alternatives.

- Examples: Stretching/yoga, indoor games, fitness circuits, educational movement activities, or quiet rest with hydration.

Communication Protocols

- Internal: Immediate notification via email, text alerts, or campus communication app to all relevant staff.
- Scholars & Families: Post updates on Academy website/app, send automated calls/texts/emails, and announce via PA system. Notify at least 1 hour in advance when possible.
- Documentation: Log all decisions, conditions, and communications.

Mitigation Measures and Site Preparedness

- Provide ample hydration stations, shaded areas, and cooling resources.
- Acclimatization: Gradual increase in activity intensity for new heat exposure.
- Emergency Response: Staff trained in recognizing heat illness signs (dizziness, nausea, confusion) and response (cooling, 911 if severe).
- Resources: Stock first aid kits with cooling items; coordinate with local agencies.

Staff Training Requirements

- Annual training (at the start of each Academy year) on:
 - Recognizing weather-related distress.
 - Protocol implementation.
 - Heat illness prevention and response.
- Records of training are maintained.

Recordkeeping

The Academy will maintain records of:

- Weather conditions during events.
- Decisions made and rationale.
- Adherence to the protocol. These support compliance and continuous improvement.

Annual Review and Update

This protocol will be reviewed, evaluated, and updated annually by May 5th each year to incorporate best practices, changing weather patterns, advances in safety, and stakeholder feedback (staff, parents, scholars). Updates approved by the Governing Board.