



**Lighthouse Community Public Schools  
Extreme Weather Policy and Procedures**  
*(Education Code § 33355 Compliance)*

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of students and staff during extreme weather conditions by establishing clear, objective criteria and procedures for modifying or canceling outdoor physical activity.

This policy is adopted pursuant to California Education Code § 33355 and incorporates guidance issued by the California Department of Education (“CDE”) and California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”).

**2. Scope**

This policy applies to outdoor pupil physical activities covered by Education Code section 33355, including physical education classes, school-sponsored sports, and athletic practices and games, except for interscholastic athletic programs administered by the California Interscholastic Federation (“CIF”), which must comply with CIF guidelines pursuant to Education Code sections 33355(d) and 35179.8.

Nothing in this policy supersedes CIF heat illness, acclimatization, or other applicable athletic safety requirements for CIF-administered interscholastic athletic programs. For non-CIF school-sponsored sports, practices, games, clubs, or other outdoor physical activities, this policy applies unless a more protective activity-specific protocol is adopted.

As a best practice, the School will also apply this policy, as appropriate, to the following school-supervised outdoor activities:

- Recess and lunch periods involving outdoor physical activity
- Outdoor assemblies and events
- Field trips involving outdoor exposure
- Other outdoor activities involving student exertion or extended outdoor exposure

**3. Definitions**

“**Extreme Weather Conditions**” means occurrences of unusually severe weather conditions, including, but not limited to, periods of extreme heat, excessive precipitation, and floods, that may pose significant harm to pupils. For purposes of this policy, the term also includes but is not limited to hazardous air quality, wildfire smoke, lightning, high winds, extreme cold, or other hazardous environmental conditions identified by the National Weather Service, local public health authorities, local emergency management agencies, or other reliable public safety sources.

**“Physical Activity”** means physical education classes, school-sponsored sports, and athletic practices and games conducted outdoors, except for CIF-administered interscholastic athletic programs. As a best practice, this policy may also be applied to other school-supervised outdoor activities involving student exertion or extended outdoor exposure.

#### **4. Individual and Activity-Specific Risk Factors**

In applying this policy, the School shall consider student age and developmental level, the duration and intensity of outdoor activity, access to shade, water, rest breaks, cooling or heated indoor spaces, the availability of indoor alternatives, and known student health needs or accommodations.

Staff shall take additional precautions for students who may be more vulnerable to weather-related distress, including younger students, students with disabilities, students with asthma or other respiratory conditions, students taking medications that may affect heat tolerance, and students who are not acclimatized to heat.

#### **5. Weather and Air Quality Monitoring Procedures**

##### **5.1 Responsible Personnel**

The following position(s) are responsible for monitoring weather conditions:

- Senior Director of Operations or designee
- Operations Manager(s) or designee
- Emergency Plan Incident Commander, as needed
- Athletic Director, as needed

##### **5.2 Decision Authority**

The Senior Director of Operations, the Operations Manager, or Emergency Plan Incident Commander or designee is authorized to modify, postpone, relocate, or cancel outdoor pupil physical activities under this policy. Principals, teachers, coaches, supervisors, and other staff may immediately stop or modify an outdoor activity when they observe conditions or student symptoms that create an immediate safety concern and shall promptly notify the site administrator and operations manager.

##### **5.3 Monitoring Tools**

Designated personnel shall monitor conditions using:

- NWS HeatRisk
- CalHeatScore or other CDPH or state heat resources, as applicable
- AirNow
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
- Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD)
- County OES/emergency alerts
- NWS alerts/watches/warnings
- Local fire agency alerts where wildfire smoke/fire conditions are relevant

##### **5.4 Monitoring Frequency**

Designated personnel shall check applicable weather and air quality sources:

- At least once each school day before outdoor physical activities begin;
- Before scheduled PE, recess, outdoor athletic practices, outdoor events, or field trips when the forecast shows elevated risk;
- At midday or before afternoon outdoor activities during periods of elevated heat, poor air quality, storms, high winds, or other hazardous conditions; and
- More frequently, including hourly or as conditions change, when an alert, advisory, warning, or elevated risk level is in effect.

If the designated responsible person is unavailable, designated Emergency Incident Commander or their designee shall conduct the review.

## 6. Weather Thresholds and Required Responses

The School adopts the following thresholds, consistent with CDE/CDPH guidance.

### 6.1 Heat ([NWS HeatRisk Levels](#))

HeatRisk Level	Risk Level	School Response
Level 0 (Green)	Little to no risk	Normal activities may proceed. Encourage routine hydration and monitor students.
Level 1 (Yellow)	Minor	Outdoor activity may proceed with increased access to water, shade, and rest. Monitor students who are heat-sensitive or medically vulnerable.
Level 2 (Orange)	Moderate	Modify outdoor physical activity. Reduce intensity and duration, increase rest and hydration breaks, use shade/cooling areas, and schedule activity during cooler parts of the day when possible. Consider indoor alternatives for younger or vulnerable students.
Level 3 (Red)	Major	Avoid or cancel outdoor physical activity during the heat of the day, generally 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., unless adequate mitigation measures make the activity safe. Move activities indoors, postpone, shorten, or substantially modify activity.
Level 4 (Magenta)	Extreme	Cancel outdoor physical activity or move it indoors. Outdoor physical activity shall not proceed unless necessary for student safety and is approved by the site administrator or designee based on emergency circumstances.

During HeatRisk Level 3 or higher, staff responsible for scheduling outdoor physical activities should plan in advance to avoid the heat of the day, generally between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., when feasible.

## 6.2 Air Quality (AQI Levels)

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value
Good	0 to 50
Moderate	51 to 100
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150
Unhealthy	151 to 200
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300
Hazardous	301 to 500

AQI	Required Response
0–50 Good	Normal activities.
51–100 Moderate	Normal activities for most students; monitor unusually sensitive students.
101–150 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion for sensitive students; provide indoor alternatives or modified activity as needed.
151–200 Unhealthy	Modify outdoor physical activity for all students; reduce duration and intensity; move prolonged or strenuous activity indoors where feasible.
201–300 Very Unhealthy	Cancel or move outdoor physical activity indoors. Follow public health/emergency guidance.
301+ Hazardous	Cancel outdoor physical activity and follow public health/emergency guidance regarding school closure or other measures.

Staff shall follow any student-specific health plans, asthma action plans, Section 504 plans, IEP accommodations, or parent/medical instructions applicable to poor air quality or respiratory conditions.

## 6.3 Other Weather Conditions

For weather conditions not specifically addressed by the HeatRisk or AQI thresholds above, the School may modify, postpone, relocate, or cancel outdoor activities when site conditions, official alerts, or staff observations indicate that the activity may pose an unreasonable risk to student health or safety.

Relevant conditions may include, but are not limited to, lightning or thunder, heavy rain, flooding or standing water, high winds, extreme cold, poor visibility, unsafe walking or play surfaces, falling-object hazards, or other hazardous conditions identified by public health, emergency management, weather, fire, or other public safety authorities.

In determining the appropriate response, administrators may consider the severity and expected duration of the condition, the age and needs of affected students, the nature and intensity of the activity, available shelter or indoor alternatives, transportation or dismissal impacts, and whether reasonable mitigation measures are available. Staff supervising students outdoors may take immediate action to address an unsafe condition and shall promptly notify the site administrator.

#### **6.4 Conflicting Information**

If reliable weather or air-quality sources report materially different conditions, the School shall use the more protective applicable threshold or response unless the site administrator or designee documents a reasonable basis for using a different source, such as a more localized official reading or a site-specific condition.

#### **7. Modifying or Canceling Activities**

When a weather or air-quality threshold is met, the School shall modify, postpone, relocate, or cancel outdoor physical activities as necessary to protect student health and safety. The appropriate response shall be determined based on the applicable threshold, the age and needs of affected students, the intensity and duration of the activity, available mitigation measures, and current site conditions.

Modifications may include shortening the activity period, reducing running or other high-exertion activities, replacing vigorous activity with low-intensity skill work or walking, increasing water and rest breaks, using shaded or covered areas, rotating groups indoors, moving the activity to a cooler part of the day, postponing the activity, or canceling the activity.

Staff supervising outdoor activities may immediately reduce, stop, or move an activity indoors if conditions become unsafe or if a student shows signs of weather-related distress. Staff shall promptly notify the site administrator of any significant modification, cancellation, or health concern.

For field trips or off-campus activities involving outdoor exposure, the trip leader shall review forecasted weather and air quality conditions before departure and, when elevated risk is forecasted, shall consult with the site administrator or designee regarding modification, postponement, cancellation, additional water/rest/shade measures, or indoor alternatives at the destination.

#### **8. Indoor Alternative Activities**

The School shall identify available indoor or sheltered locations that may be used when outdoor physical activities are modified, relocated, or canceled due to extreme weather conditions. Available locations may include classrooms, multipurpose room, covered outdoor areas, or other designated spaces.

When outdoor activity is moved indoors, staff shall select activities appropriate to the students' age, available space, supervision, and current conditions. Indoor alternatives may include modified physical education lessons, health or nutrition instruction, stretching, yoga, low-intensity movement, classroom movement breaks, skill instruction, rules or safety instruction, or other supervised activities that can be conducted safely indoors.

Staff shall ensure that indoor alternatives are adequately supervised and do not create unsafe crowding, blocked exits, excessive noise, or other conditions that would create a separate safety concern.

## **9. Communication Protocols**

The School shall communicate weather-related decisions to staff and students through email, Slack messaging system, staff briefing, radio, or PA system, as appropriate based on the timing and nature of the condition. Communications should identify the affected activity, the required modification or cancellation, and any immediate supervision or safety instructions.

The School shall notify families when weather conditions result in cancellation that will affect families, such as cancellation of an activity, significant modification of the school day, or changes to transportation, dismissal, or pickup. Notice may be provided by email, SMS or alert system, website update, or other regular school communication method.

When feasible, notice should be provided in advance. Same-day updates may be provided as conditions change.

## **10. Staff Training**

Staff members who supervise, schedule, or make decisions regarding outdoor student activities shall receive annual training on this policy, applicable monitoring tools, activity modification procedures, recognition of heat-related illness and other weather-related health risks, and appropriate response protocols. Training should also address when to seek health office assistance, contact a parent/guardian, or call 911.

The School shall maintain records of staff training completion.

## **11. Weather-Related Illness and Emergency Response**

### **11.1 Signs of Heat-Related Illness**

Staff shall be trained to recognize symptoms including:

- Dizziness, fatigue, or confusion
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid pulse
- Loss of consciousness

### **11.2 Response to Heat-Related Illness Symptoms**

- Stop activity immediately
- Move student to a cool/shaded area
- Provide water

- Contact School health personnel
- Call 911 immediately if a student has loss of consciousness, confusion, seizure, difficulty breathing, chest pain, signs of heat stroke, symptoms that rapidly worsen, or any condition that appears life-threatening.
- Parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as practicable when a student experiences a weather-related health incident requiring removal from activity, health office evaluation, emergency care, or other significant intervention.

### **11.3 Incident Reporting**

All weather-related health incidents shall be documented in accordance with School procedures.

### **12. Coordination with External Agencies**

The School shall coordinate, as appropriate, with local public health departments, emergency management agencies, local air districts, fire agencies, weather services, and athletic governing bodies regarding extreme weather conditions that may affect student safety. Coordination may include monitoring official alerts, following applicable public health or emergency guidance, consulting with local agencies when conditions warrant, and incorporating relevant local information into site-level decisions.

If the School participates in CIF-administered interscholastic athletics, the School shall ensure that applicable athletic personnel are aware of and follow CIF requirements and any other applicable sport-specific safety rules.

### **13. Facilities and Mitigation Measures**

To the extent feasible, the School shall maintain or identify mitigation measures that reduce student exposure to extreme weather conditions during outdoor activities. These measures may include access to drinking water, shaded or covered areas, rest areas, cooling or heated indoor spaces, and procedures for moving students indoors when conditions require.

During wildfire smoke or poor air-quality events, the School shall consider available measures to reduce indoor exposure, including use of appropriate indoor spaces, keeping windows and doors closed when appropriate, monitoring indoor air quality where feasible, and following applicable public health or local air district guidance.

The School's ability to implement specific mitigation measures may vary based on the campus, facilities, staffing, and the nature of the activity. However, lack of a particular mitigation measure shall be considered when determining whether an outdoor activity should be modified, postponed, relocated, or canceled.

### **14. Recordkeeping and Compliance**

The School shall maintain records reasonably documenting implementation of this policy, including staff training completion, significant weather-related activity modifications or cancellations, and significant weather-related health incidents. Records may include weather decision logs, staff notifications, calendar notes, incident reports, training rosters, or other records reasonably documenting implementation. Records shall be retained in accordance with applicable School policies.

### **15. Annual Review and Update**

This policy shall be reviewed and updated at least annually to:

- Reflect updated CDE/CDPH guidance
- Incorporate lessons learned from prior implementation
- Address emerging concerns or challenges
- Reflect changes in weather patterns and advances in safety practices,
- Incorporate stakeholder feedback, and
- Ensure continued compliance with applicable law

The annual review should occur before the start of the school year or before the season when extreme weather is reasonably anticipated.

### **16. Authority and Implementation**

The Senior Director of Operations is responsible for implementation and enforcement of this policy.