

Operational Services

Extreme Heat Procedures

Illinois State Board of Education Policy:

The health and safety of children are of paramount importance to local school superintendents. Section 18-12, the School Code allows the use of interrupted School Days for "adverse weather conditions." As a reminder, with regard to extreme heat, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) allows for four options:

1. Amend the public school calendar to start school at a later date
2. **Dismiss after 5-clock hours of instruction**
 - a. Instructional time is maximized
 - b. Advance notice will be provided to allow parents to arrange for childcare
 - c. School day does not have to be made up
3. Utilize an Emergency Day (no school for the entire district)
 - a. Advance notice will be provided
 - b. School day must be made up
4. Utilize an Interrupted Day (school may be dismissed after a minimum of one clock hour of instruction)
 - a. No advance notice; decision will be made during the school day
 - b. Minimal time for parents to arrange for childcare
 - c. ISBE's current policy further states that if the announcement is made in advance (i.e., on the previous day) that school will be closing on any day or days after less than 5 clock hours because of heat, you must use an emergency day(s). You cannot count that shortened day as a full-day of attendance under those circumstances.

District Action Plan:

- The weather forecast will be reviewed using multiple sources on both a daily and weekly basis. The final determination will be based upon the heat index as calculated by Weather.com <http://www.weather.com>
- The Chief School Business Official and the Director of Facilities will confer with the Superintendent to determine an appropriate plan of action.
- The goal is to plan as far in advance as possible.
- The campuses with air conditioning will remain in session for the full day: Middle School North, Spencer Loomis, and the High School.

CUSD95 Excessive Heat Procedures (Day 1)

- If the heat index (combination of heat + humidity) is **97 degrees** or above as determined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) the following **Excessive Heat Procedures** will be put into place for the District's non-air conditioned buildings (**Isaac Fox, Middle School South, May Whitney, Sarah Adams, Seth Paine**).
 - Keep overhead lights to a minimum if possible.
 - All available fans will be deployed to classrooms.
 - All classrooms will be rotated the designated cooling areas (air conditioned) in each building throughout the day.

- Teachers will limit all physical activity in the classroom and in PE classes.
- Students will be granted frequent water breaks and will be allowed to carry their own water bottles.
- School nurses and staff will watch for any warning signs of heat distress.
- Please refer to chart from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the National Weather Service.
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-index>

CUSD95 Excessive Heat Procedures (Day 2)

- If the predicted **heat index is 97 degrees or above** for the day immediately following the first day of 97 degrees or above heat index, an **Early Dismissal Schedule** will be implemented for those schools without air conditioning (**Isaac Fox, Middle School South, May Whitney, Sarah Adams, Seth Paine**).
- Parents, students and staff will be notified via School Messenger and the district website of the Early Dismissal by 9:00 p.m. the previous evening. Early Dismissal times can be found on the district website under Parents - > Bell Schedules & Emergency Closing Info (page 3 for Early Dismissal)
https://www.lz95.org/assets/1/17/School_Closings,_Delayed_Start,_and_Early_Dismissal_Information.pdf
- The **Excessive Heat Procedures** above will be implemented while students are in attendance prior to the early dismissal.

CUSD95 Excessive Heat Procedures (Day 3 and subsequent consecutive days of \geq 97 degrees Heat index)

- An **Early Dismissal Schedule** will be implemented for those schools without air conditioning (**Isaac Fox, Middle School South, May Whitney, Sarah Adams, Seth Paine**).
- Parents, students, and staff will be notified via School Messenger and the district website of the Early Dismissal by 9:00 p.m. the previous evening.
- The **Excessive Heat Procedures** will be implemented while students are in attendance prior to the early dismissal.

Staff Members:

In the event school that the Early Dismissal Schedule is implemented, staff members at the non-air conditioned schools are expected to work a full contractual day, but are encouraged to locate to cool place within the building to work.