Brea Olinda Unified School District

Extreme Weather Conditions: Student Activity Modifications

Weather Safety Protocol for Students

Our goal: Protect students from weather-related illness or injury while providing clear, consistent guidance for outdoor physical activities across BOUSD schools.

Purpose

BOUSD monitors environmental conditions that may affect student safety and modifies, relocates, postpones, or cancels outdoor physical activities when conditions present an increased risk. This protocol incorporates California Department of Education (CDE) extreme weather guidance developed pursuant to Education Code section 33355 (SB 1248).

Who and What This Protocol Covers

This protocol applies districtwide to student physical activities, including physical education and District-sponsored sports and athletic activities that are not administered by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). As a BOUSD safety practice, the same weather considerations are also used for recess, lunch activity, after-school programs, outdoor instructional activities, and District-sponsored outdoor events when appropriate.

- CIF interscholastic athletics, including practices and games, follow applicable CIF heat illness, acclimatization, air quality, and other safety requirements. BOUSD may apply additional protective measures when warranted.
- Employee heat exposure is addressed separately through BOUSD employee safety and Heat Illness Prevention procedures. This student protocol is not the employee Heat Illness Prevention Plan.
- Facility users and outside organizations remain responsible for complying with their agreements and applicable safety requirements.

Key Terms

Extreme weather conditions: Unusually severe environmental conditions that may pose significant harm to students, including extreme heat, excessive precipitation, flooding, poor air quality, lightning, severe storms, high winds, extreme cold, or other hazardous conditions.

HeatRisk: A National Weather Service (NWS) color-and-number forecast that assigns a daily heat-risk level for a specific location. NWS - not BOUSD - determines the HeatRisk level using forecast temperature, how unusual the heat is for the location and time of year, the duration of the heat (including overnight temperatures), and heat-health thresholds. HeatRisk levels are Green (0), Yellow (1), Orange (2), Red (3), and Magenta (4).

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT): A heat-stress index that considers temperature, humidity, wind, and radiant heat/direct sun. CIF uses WBGT for applicable interscholastic athletic activities.

Air Quality Index (AQI): A standardized scale used to communicate how clean or polluted the outdoor air is and the associated health concern.

Sensitive students: Students who may be more vulnerable to heat or poor air quality, including students with certain medical conditions. Individual health plans and medical accommodations will be followed when applicable.

Weather Monitoring and Decision-Making

Site administrators or their designee will review the applicable NWS HeatRisk level and other current conditions/forecasts using reliable, District-approved resources. The NWS HeatRisk forecast identifies whether the location is Green, Yellow, Orange, Red, or Magenta; BOUSD staff then apply the corresponding activity guidance in this protocol. Conditions may be checked more frequently when weather is changing or an alert is in effect. Relevant information may include:

National Weather Service HeatRisk interactive viewer and NWS weather alerts

(if this site is down, you can use CDS HeatRisk

- Local temperature, humidity, wind, precipitation, and storm conditions
- Air quality information from South Coast AQMD, AirNow, or other reliable public agencies
- WBGT readings and CIF requirements for applicable athletics
- Local emergency, public health, and safety information

Site administrators determine appropriate student activity modifications based on the conditions at the school, the age and needs of students, the duration and intensity of the activity, available shade/cooling and hydration, and other site-specific factors. When more than one hazard is present, BOUSD will use the more protective applicable measure.

Extreme Heat: HeatRisk Activity Guidance

BOUSD uses the CDE/CDPH HeatRisk framework as the primary districtwide guide for non-CIF student physical activities. The applicable color level comes from the NWS HeatRisk forecast for the area and is not based on a single temperature cutoff. Site administrators may take additional protective measures at any level when conditions or student needs warrant.

HeatRisk	Risk	BOUSD Student Activity Guidance
0 - Green	Little to none	Normal activities may proceed. Maintain routine access to drinking water and monitor conditions.
1 - Yellow	Minor	Activities may proceed with increased attention to hydration, shade/rest opportunities, and students who are especially sensitive to heat.
2 - Orange	Moderate	Modify prolonged or strenuous outdoor activity as appropriate. Increase hydration, shade and rest; reduce time in direct sun; schedule activity during cooler periods when feasible; and offer indoor alternatives.
3 - Red	Major	Cancel or move mandatory outdoor physical activities out of the heat of the day. Use cooled indoor alternatives when available. If an activity must occur, use the coolest feasible time and apply significant reductions in duration and intensity.
4 - Magenta	Extreme	Cancel outdoor physical activities and move students to cooled indoor locations. Maintain hydration and monitor students closely.

CIF Athletics and WBGT. For CIF interscholastic athletics, BOUSD follows the applicable CIF WBGT category and activity modification/cancellation requirements. The BOHS weather station may be used as a local WBGT resource for BOHS activities, together with applicable CIF requirements and current site conditions. For current BOHS weather information, the on-site weather station, and CIF-related guidance, visit the BOHS Weather & Activities page.

Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke

BOUSD considers AQI and local air-quality guidance when determining whether outdoor activities should be modified or moved indoors. The table below summarizes public-health protective actions. Site administrators may use more restrictive measures based on local conditions, smoke, student needs, or agency advisories.

AQI	Category	BOUSD Student Activity Guidance
0-50	Good	Usual outdoor activities may proceed.
51-100	Moderate	Usual activities may proceed. Extremely sensitive students should follow individual health guidance and may need reduced strenuous activity.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive students should limit prolonged or vigorous outdoor activity. Provide breaks and indoor alternatives as appropriate.
151-200	Unhealthy	Sensitive students should avoid outdoor exposure. Limit prolonged or vigorous outdoor activity for all students and move activities indoors when feasible.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Move student physical activities indoors. Avoid outdoor exertion.
301-500	Hazardous	Move all student activities indoors as conditions and emergency guidance require. Follow official health and emergency instructions.

Rain, Flooding, Lightning, Wind, and Other Hazards

Outdoor activities will be modified, relocated, postponed, or canceled when severe weather or site conditions create an unsafe environment. Examples include heavy rain, flooding or standing water, lightning, severe storms, high winds, extreme cold, unsafe surfaces, falling-object hazards, or official warnings/advisories.

When thunder is heard or lightning is observed, outdoor activities will be suspended and students and staff moved to a substantial enclosed building or other appropriate safe location. Outdoor activities should not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or observed lightning. If thunder or lightning occurs again, the 30-minute waiting period begins again.

BOUSD will follow applicable emergency instructions and may restrict access to affected outdoor areas until conditions are safe.

Student Safety Measures

- Provide reasonable access to drinking water and encourage hydration during hot conditions.
- Use shade, cooling, rest breaks, reduced activity intensity, shortened exposure, or indoor relocation when appropriate.
- Avoid requiring students to sit or exercise on excessively hot surfaces when heat conditions warrant.
- Allow a student who reports feeling ill, overheated, dizzy, short of breath, or otherwise distressed to stop activity and receive prompt evaluation.
- Follow student health plans and medical accommodations when applicable.

- Contact emergency medical services when symptoms or circumstances indicate an emergency.

Indoor and Alternative Activities

Each school site will identify reasonable indoor or lower-risk alternatives for physical education, recess/lunch activity, and other outdoor programs when weather conditions require modification. Alternatives may include indoor movement activities, classroom-based physical activity, use of shaded or cooled spaces, schedule changes, or postponement/rescheduling of an event.

Power Outage or Loss of Cooling

During periods of elevated heat, a power outage or HVAC failure may cause indoor temperatures to rise and may affect the suitability of indoor spaces as alternatives to outdoor activities. Site administrators should notify Maintenance/Operations and monitor indoor conditions when cooling is unavailable.

Students and staff should have continued access to drinking water and, when available, be relocated to cooler areas of the campus. Indoor spaces experiencing increasing temperatures should not automatically be considered appropriate alternatives to outdoor activities.

If adequate cooled space is unavailable or indoor conditions continue to worsen, site administration should contact District Administration to determine whether additional measures are necessary, including relocation, modification of the school day, or early dismissal.

Employee heat exposure during these conditions will be addressed in accordance with the BOUSD Heat Illness Prevention Plan (HIPP) and BOUSD Employee Heat Safety - Supervisor Quick Guide.

Communication

BOUSD will communicate weather-related changes to affected staff and students as appropriate. Parents/guardians will be notified when extreme weather conditions result in significant changes to scheduled activities, athletic events, or other circumstances when parent/guardian notification is appropriate. Communication may occur through District or school communication systems, websites, email, text message, or other appropriate means.

Staff Preparedness and Response

Staff responsible for outdoor student activities will receive information or training appropriate to their responsibilities, including recognition of weather-related distress and appropriate response measures. Staff should promptly report unsafe conditions or suspected weather-related illness to site administration and health staff. Significant student weather-related illness incidents should be reported through applicable District health/safety and Risk Management procedures.

Coordination and Emergency Information

BOUSD will use information and resources from relevant public agencies and experts, which may include the National Weather Service, California Department of Education, California Department of Public Health, South Coast Air Quality Management District, local public health agencies, emergency management agencies, fire/law enforcement, and other appropriate partners. Official emergency orders and evacuation instructions take priority over routine activity guidance.

Annual Review

BOUSD will review this protocol at least annually and update it as necessary to reflect changes in law, CDE/CDPH guidance, weather patterns, safety practices, District experience, and stakeholder feedback.

Public Resources

- **California Department of Education:** Senate Bill 1248: Extreme Weather Guidelines
  National Weather Service: HeatRisk interactive viewer and weather alerts
- **California Department of Public Health:** Extreme heat and school health guidance
- **South Coast Air Quality Management District / AirNow:** Current and forecast air quality
- **California Interscholastic Federation:** Heat illness, acclimatization, and applicable athletic safety guidance