

G-9: Administrative Procedures

Outdoor Air Quality



REFERENCES

[Board Policy G-9: Outdoor Air Quality](#)
[Utah Department of Health, Recess Guidance for Schools](#)
[Salt Lake City Ordinance, No. 65, Chapter 12.58.030](#)

DEFINITIONS

Respiratory Symptoms: Symptoms including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness.

Sensitive Students: Students with asthma, cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, compromised immune systems, or other respiratory problems.

PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. Parent Notification and Action

- A. At the beginning of every school year, each school which provides outdoor recess or outdoor physical education (PE) classes to its students shall notify parents of the district's outdoor air quality policy and these procedures. A sample letter that principals may use to inform parents of this information is located in the school leadership and performance section of the District Document Center.
- B. Parents, with the advice of their health care provider, must inform the school secretary or school nurse, if their child is sensitive to poor air quality, and therefore should have limited outdoor physical education when the air quality is poor (hereafter referred to as "sensitive students").

II. School Responsibilities

- A. Every day the principal or designee shall check the outdoor air quality before outdoor PE classes are held or the students are allowed to play outside at recess.
- B. The principal or designee shall check the current Particulate Matter (PM2.5) levels provided by the Utah Department of Health (DOH) at least once a day. Because air quality changes throughout the day, the district encourages checking the PM2.5 levels prior to each scheduled recess.
- C. This information can be accessed on the DOH website, www.airquality.utah.gov, by clicking on "current conditions." The DOH provides other options for obtaining this information such as email alerts, downloading an air quality app, telephone updates, etc.
- D. The following categories provide guidelines for when outdoor physical activity is appropriate based on the air quality. Principals, or their designees, in their sole discretion may restrict outdoor physical activity at even lower PM2.5 levels.
 1. When the PM2.5 level is between 35.5 – 55.4 ug/m³, sensitive students and students with respiratory symptoms should remain indoors for recess and PE classes.
 2. When the PM2.5 level is above 55.5 ug/m³, all students should remain indoors for recess and PE classes.
- E. After checking the PM2.5 levels, the principal or designee must notify the staff when students should stay indoors.

III. Salt Lake City's Idle Free Ordinance

- A. When picking up or dropping off students from a district school, drivers should be aware that state law prohibits unnecessary vehicle idling for more than two minutes.
- B. School resources about the city's idling reduction program are available at: <https://www.slc.gov/sustainability/air-quality/idle-free-ordinance/idle-free-school-resources/> .

IV. Air Quality Flag Program

- A. Schools may choose to participate in the Air Quality Flag Program, which was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and uses brightly colored flags based on the EPA Air Quality Index (AQI) to notify people and their communities about outdoor air quality conditions.
- B. Participating schools raise a flag each day that corresponds to their local air quality forecast.
- C. The Air Quality Flag Program is designed to increase awareness of air quality, not make decisions about recess.
 1. Principals must still determine the appropriateness of having students engage in outdoor physical activities based on the outdoor air quality.
- D. The Utah Asthma Program has a limited number of flag sets available to organizations and schools for free; school principals can contact asthma@utah.gov to receive a free air quality flag kit.

No district employee or student shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The district is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services and employment including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. The district also provides equal access to district facilities for all youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United State Codes, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Tina Hatch, Compliance and Investigations/Title IX Coordinator, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.