



## Outside Air Quality Monitoring for School-Related Outdoor Activities

Student and staff safety are our top priority as we remain diligent in ensuring safe environments for all of our staff and students. With the recent air quality issues the past few years due to wildfire smoke, the District wanted to provide background and resources to clarify how decisions are made related to outdoor activities for our staff and students.

While it is highly unlikely the District would cancel classes or school for air quality, decisions about outdoor recess, outdoor activities are guided by the [Department of Health \(DOH\) air quality index \(AQI\) levels and guidance](#). Recently, the DOH made a change that impacts outdoor activities. The interventions we will put into place range from merely monitoring conditions to canceling events. Here are examples of this spectrum:

- Extra curricular and co-curricular activities and competition events will be evaluated once the local AQI exceeds 100 based on intensity and duration.
- Adjustments to Elementary recess will be made when the AQI reaches 101-150
- All outdoor activities will be canceled when the AQI exceeds 151.

Conditions can change quickly. Our schools have the authority to keep students inside if they feel it is necessary. If there is a program change at our schools, parents and school partners will be notified by the District or directly from the building. You can check the current and forecasted air quality status online using the following links (remember, different agencies will likely report variations because of when and where they gather their data).

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

<https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>

**Please note**, for off-island events the zip code used needs to be the location of the event. Sometimes decisions about whether to cancel an event or not are up to the host school or sponsor. MISD will also monitor hosting site air quality and do what we believe is in the best interest of our students and staff.

### District Decision Making Process & Timeline

The Superintendent, Director of Maintenance and Operations, Director of Transportation, Athletics Director, and site administrators collaborate to make safe and sound decisions during all weather events. Decisions to make adjustments to the daily schedule will start as early as possible given current information and forecasts. The impact of wildfire smoke can change quickly and without notice. Student and staff safety are always at the forefront of our thinking and decisions are made with an abundance of precaution.

### Efforts in Place to Sustain Strong Indoor Air Quality in our Buildings

- We set the outside air damper settings on our HVAC systems to 20%. This significantly reduces the amount of outside air being drawn into the building while still providing a minimum of outside air to sustain health and safety measures.
- If air quality reaches **unhealthy levels** Maintenance and Operations staff close the outside air dampers and increase fan speeds to keep air circulating at high levels. All HVAC equipment use MERV 13 air filters, MERV 13 filters offer the highest filtration rate usable without restricting the airflow delivered to our buildings.
- Masks will be available for students or staff experiencing adverse symptoms due to the outdoor air quality.