

## **Mapleton Public Schools Excessive Temperature Guidance and District Plan**

Mapleton Public Schools is committed to maintaining optimal learning environments to assure the safety and well-being of students and staff. To that end, it is our responsibility to proactively address the challenges posed by excessive temperatures. The following Excessive Temperature Plan outlines our dedication to enhancing the educational experiences of our students while safeguarding the health of all members of our school community.

With a primary focus on prevention and preparedness, this plan articulates the guidelines for modifying classroom activities, adjusting schedules, optimizing building infrastructure, and implementing hydration and cooling strategies. By integrating these elements seamlessly, we hope to foster a productive and comfortable setting for learning and growth.

### **Hot Weather Guidelines - Outdoors**

The following procedure should be used to determine whether students can participate in outdoor activities, including but not limited to recess, physical education, athletics, and outdoor field trips.

- The heat index should be factored in when determining whether outdoor activities are appropriate. As the heat index increases so do health risks.
- Students should not have outdoor recess or physical education classes outdoors when the temperature or heat index is greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Students will have access to water before, during, and after the outside activity.
- Any request from a parent that their child be excluded from outdoor activity due to extreme weather conditions, poor air quality, or high pollen counts will be honored.

Our procedures are informed by experts from the [National Weather Service](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(Extreme Heat\)](#).

Additional Hot Weather guidance for **Athletics and Activities** can be found in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Sports Medicine Advisory Handbook, **here**.

Heat Index Chart (in Fahrenheit %)														
		Relative Humidity (Percent)												
Air Temperature (F)		40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
	80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87
	84	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98	100	103
	90	91	93	95	97	100	103	105	109	113	117	122	127	132
	94	97	100	103	106	110	114	119	124	129	135			
	100	109	114	118	124	129	130							
	104	119	124	131	137									

**Inside Schools**

Our intent is to have students attend school all day, every school day, but recognize that extreme heat conditions can create health/safety issues for staff and students and impair the learning environment. Although all Mapleton schools and indoor spaces are equipped with heat and air conditioning, it is important to be prepared in case of an equipment malfunction.

To alleviate excessive heat indoors, staff may open windows (where available), close blinds to keep out direct sunlight, or use other strategies to keep rooms cool. When classroom temperatures are above 75 degrees or reach uncomfortable levels, the temporary use of fans or portable air conditioners will be made available. Staff will be encouraged to work with school leadership to move classes and activities to cooler locations.

To alleviate excessive cold indoors, staff may open blinds for direct sunlight, or use other strategies to keep rooms warm. When classroom temperatures fall below 65 degrees, the temporary use of space heaters may be made available, and staff will be encouraged to work with school leadership to move classes and activities to warmer locations.

The decision to close a school will be based upon a determination of the safety of the environment after considering temperatures within the classrooms, and after recommended steps have been taken to alleviate the excessive heat or cold conditions. Digital thermometers will be used to verify actual temperatures within the classrooms. A specific process will be defined which will include prior outreach to parents/guardians and clear communication with all stakeholders before an early closing.

**Cold Weather Guidelines - Outdoors**

On school days when there is excessively cold weather, the following procedure should be used for determining whether students can participate in outdoor activities, including but not limited to recess, physical education, and outdoor field trips.




- The wind chill factor should be taken into account in determining whether outdoor activities are appropriate.
- The recommended temperature to allow students to be outside for recess, physical education, or outdoor field trips is 20 degrees Fahrenheit or above, including the wind chill factor.

- If school staff determine a student does not have sufficient warm clothing for outdoor activities, the student should be excused from the activity.
- Any request from a parent that their child be excluded from outdoor activity due to weather conditions will be honored.
- Current local temperatures can be obtained through the National Weather Service local forecast.
- Wind Chill can be calculated, [here](#).

Additional Cold Weather guidance for **Athletics and Activities** can be found in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Sports Medicine Advisory Handbook, [here](#).

Wind-Chill Factor Chart (in Fahrenheit)										
		Wind Speed in mph								
		Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
Air Temperature	40	40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27
	30	30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13
	20	20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1
	10	10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15
	0	0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29
	-10	-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43

	Comfortable for out door play		Caution		Danger
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### School Closures

The decision to close schools due to adverse conditions is based on many factors, including reports on road conditions from the Colorado Department of Transportation, weather reports, and information from local and state law enforcement agencies, among other considerations. All decisions are made with the safety of staff, students, and families top of mind. The determination to cancel school for an entire day will happen as early as possible. Staff and families will be notified via Blackboard Mass Communication (autodial, text message, email), website, social media, and local media.

### Delayed Start

On a delayed start day, school will begin **two hours later** than the usual start time. For example, if school normally begins at 8:10 a.m., a two-hour delay will mean it begins at 10:10 a.m.

Bus pick-up times would also be delayed by two hours. If your child is normally at the bus stop by 7:30 a.m., on a late start day they would need to be at the bus stop by 9:30 a.m.

A two-hour delay would also mean that Zero Hour classes will be canceled for that day as well as morning (AM) preschool. Full-day preschool will begin two hours late and afternoon (PM) preschool will start on time.

Families will be notified of either a late start or school cancelation through Infinite Campus and/or Blackboard Mass Communication (autodial, text message, email).

Local television and radio stations will have weather-related delays and closure information as well as Mapleton's Facebook page and website at [www.mapleton.us](http://www.mapleton.us).

**Employee Care**

With a delayed start, toddler care and preschool before care (employee care) are also delayed two hours and open at 8:45 a.m.