# EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

The top priority of the Lyon County School District is to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. Extreme environmental conditions including, but not limited to increased temperatures, inclement weather, decreased air quality and other emergencies may require adjustments to the typical school day in order to reduce risk.

The decision to delay or close schools and other district operations because of extreme environmental conditions or other emergencies will be made by the superintendent or designee. Extreme environmental conditions are defined as any circumstances which prohibit or hinder the normal operations or educational activities of a school and/or creates a situation that could be harmful to the safety of students and staff.

The superintendent may authorize the delay or closing of any or all schools affected by the extreme environmental conditions or other emergencies. Notification will be given to students, families, staff and the public of such delay or closings under a communication plan developed by the superintendent or designee. If extreme environmental conditions vary from one area of the school district to another or from school to school, the superintendent may close individual schools as necessary.

Adjustments to the typical school day as a result of decreased air quality will be implemented according to the chart in the administrative regulations. Principals may enact more stringent practices but may not apply more liberal adjustments than that outlined in the regulations.

Policy #EBCD Revised 11/17/20

#### EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES: ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

The decision to delay or close school due to inclement weather conditions will be initiated according to the LCSD Inclement Weather Conditions Process Chart. Should a delay or closure be warranted, the following procedures will be in effect.

### DELAYED START TO THE SCHOOL DAY

- 1. Delayed school starts will be for students only and two hours in length from the beginning of the regular school day to allow for adequate preparation of transportation and school facilities.
- 2. All staff will report to work as safely as possible according to their regular work schedule. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the principal or supervisor.

## EARLY RELEASE FROM A SCHOOL DAY

- 1. An early release from school due to extreme environmental conditions will only be used as a final option since students are most safe at school under adult supervision.
- 2. If this option is used, appropriate emergency communication to parents/guardians must occur before students are released and transported home.

#### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE**

- 1. School closures for students will be determined the evening prior or by 5:15am on the day of the closure.
- 2. All staff will report to work as safely as possible according to their regular work schedule. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the principal or supervisor.

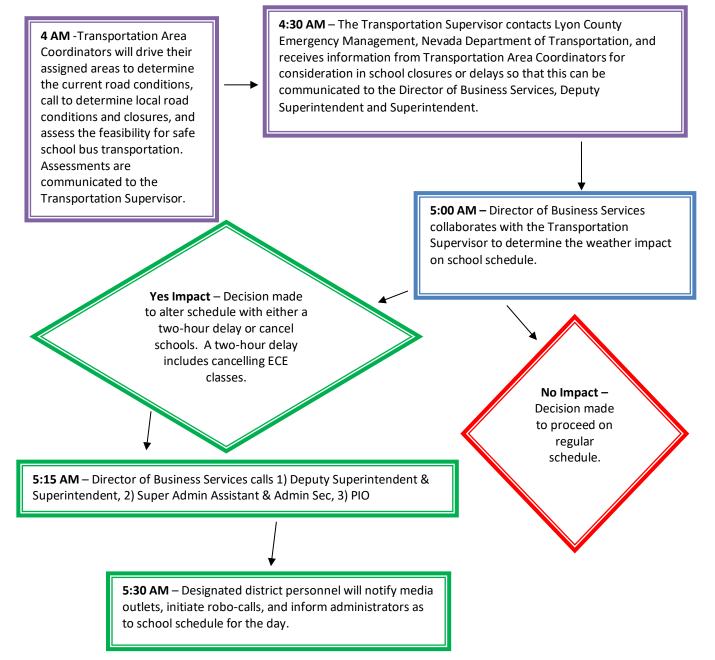
## AIR QUALITY

Schools will not be closed in the LCSD due to decreased outdoor air quality as students and staff can safely conduct normal educational operations inside school/district facilities. The decision to cancel or move outdoor activities indoors due to decreased air quality will be initiated according to the LCSD Air Quality Conditions Process Chart. Should a cancellation or move to indoors be warranted, the following procedures will be in effect.

- 1. The LCSD will use the U.S. air quality index www.airnow.gov to determine AQI levels for ozone and particulates.
- 2. When the AQI reaches the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range of 101-150, the principal may choose to cancel all outdoor activities at his/her discretion.
- 3. If the principal decides to allow outdoor activities, the following approach must be used:
  - a. Staff must identify all students who fall within the sensitive individual category and monitor/limit their activity as necessary or keep them indoors.

- b. Limit and control physical exertion for all students as necessary.
- c. Increase the opportunities for water breaks and rest periods.
- d. Monitor the AQI every 30 minutes to determine necessary adjustments to activity.
- 4. Once the AQI reaches 151, all outdoor activities are canceled, and everyone must move indoors.

# **LCSD Inclement Weather Conditions Process Chart**



# LCSD Air Quality Conditions Process Chart

Air Quality Index (AQI) Table for Ozone and PM 2.5 with Visibilities for Wildfire Smoke *\*Sensitive individuals include those with asthma or other heart/lung conditions.* 

Activity	Good = 0-50 (11 miles +)	Moderate = 51-100 (6 to 10 miles)	Unhealthy for Sensitive Individuals = 101-150 (3 to 5 miles)	Unhealthy = 151-200 (1.5 to 2.75 miles)	Very Unhealthy = 201-300 (1 to 1.25 miles)	Hazardous = 301+ (Less than 1 mile)
Recess	No Restrictions	Unusually sensitive students should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Sensitive students should remain indoors. Limit prolonged or heavy exertion for all students.	No outdoor activity permitted. All students remain indoors with no limits to activity exertion.	No outdoor activity permitted. All students remain indoors and limit activity to moderate exertion.	No outdoor activity permitted. All students remain indoors and limit activity to light exertion.
P.E. or Other Outdoor Class	No Restrictions	Unusually sensitive students should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Sensitive students should remain indoors. Limit prolonged or heavy exertion for all students.	No outdoor activity permitted. All students remain indoors with no limits to activity exertion.	No outdoor activity permitted. All students remain indoors and limit activity to moderate exertion.	No outdoor activity permitted. All students remain indoors and limit activity to light exertion.
Athletic Practice/Training or Other Outdoor Activities	No Restrictions	Unusually sensitive students should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Sensitive students should remain indoors. Limit prolonged or heavy exertion for all students.	No outdoor practices, trainings or activities permitted.	No outdoor practices, trainings or activities permitted.	No outdoor practices, trainings or activities permitted.
Scheduled Sporting Events or Other Outdoor Competitions	No Restrictions	Unusually sensitive students should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Sensitive students should remain indoors. Limit prolonged or heavy exertion for all students.	No outdoor events or competitions permitted.	No outdoor events or competitions permitted.	No outdoor events or competitions permitted.
Staff Working Outdoors	No Restrictions	Unusually sensitive staff should limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Sensitive staff should remain indoors. Limit prolonged or heavy exertion for all staff.	No outdoor work permitted for extended periods of time.	No outdoor work permitted for extended periods of time.	No outdoor work permitted for extended periods of time.

			AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution	
Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality	
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.	
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.	
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.	
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.	
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.	
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.	