



New York State
School Boards
Association

Presents

Smartphone-
free Schools

Extreme Heat
in Schools

Ex Officio Student
Board members

Student-Centered Policies: Recent Changes, New Opportunities

2025 Live Virtual Policy Workshop

May 7, 2025

PART 3:

EXTREME HEAT CONDITION DAYS

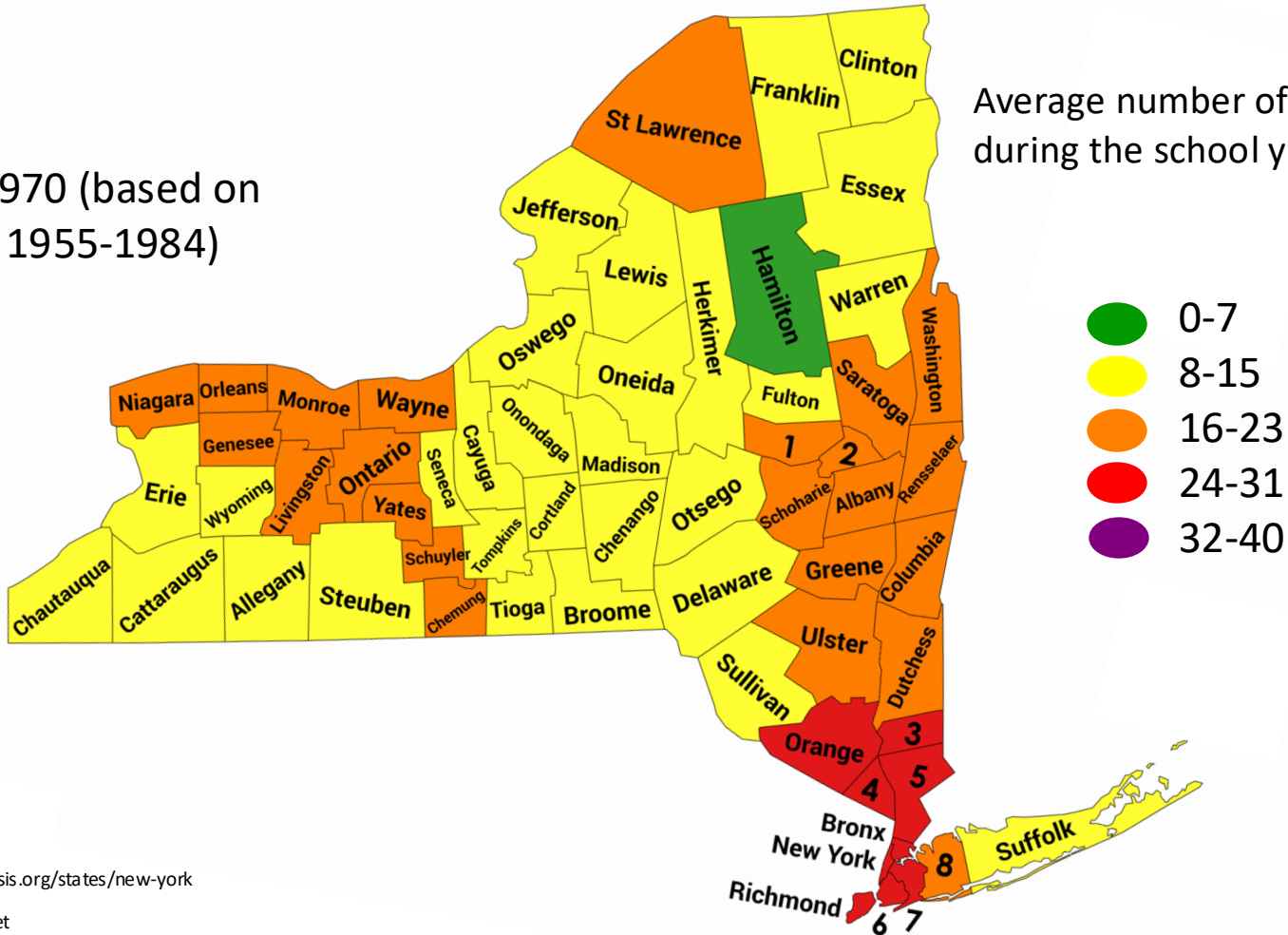


JUNE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HOT, RIGHT?



Trend in 1970 (based on
data from 1955-1984)

Average number of days over 80°
during the school year per county



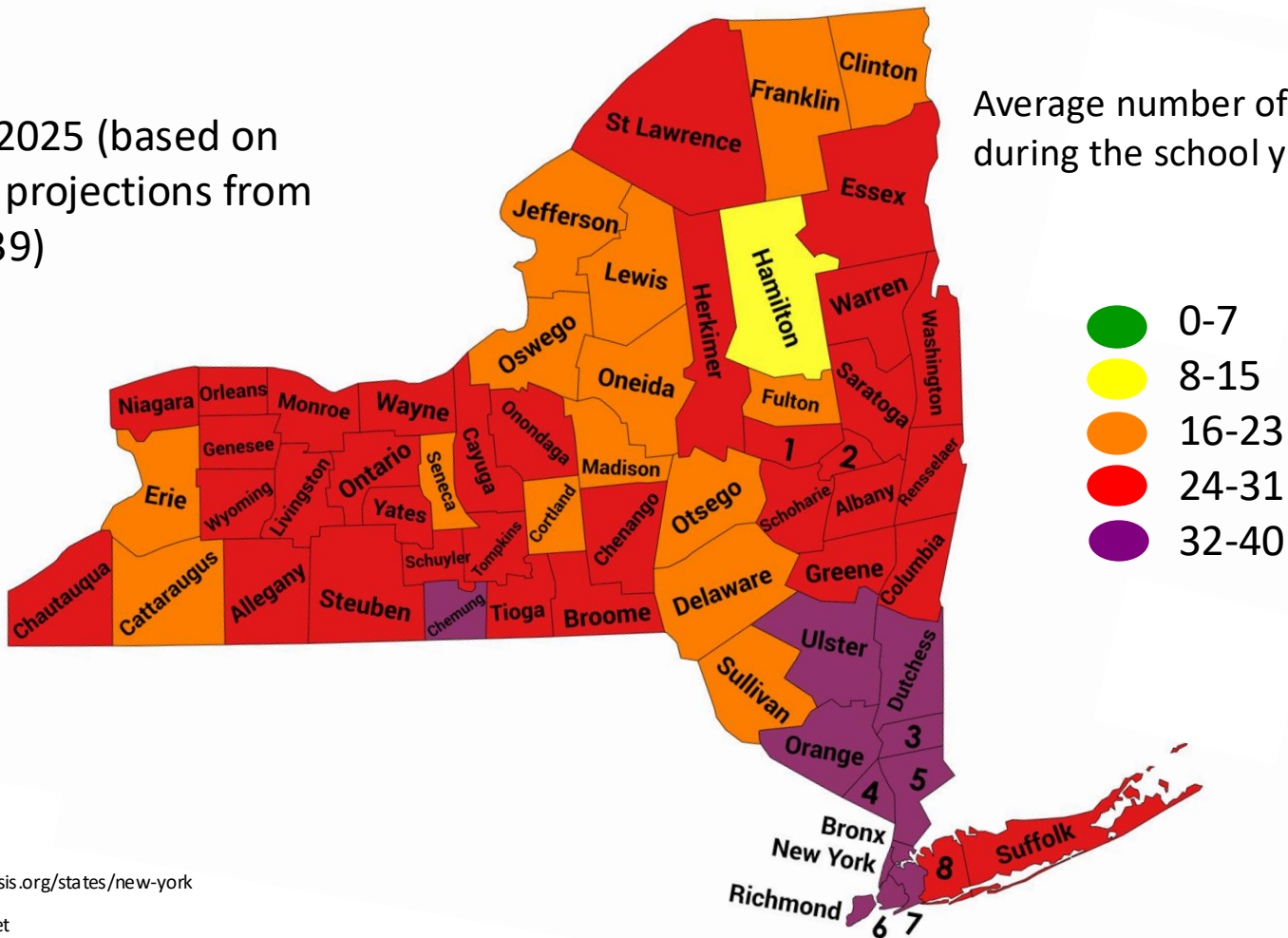
- 1 – Montgomery
- 2 – Schenectady
- 3 – Putnam
- 4 – Rockland
- 5 – Westchester
- 6 – Brooklyn
- 7 – Queens
- 8 – Nassau

Source: <https://coolingcrisis.org/states/new-york>

Created with mapchart.net

Trend in 2025 (based on data and projections from 2010-2039)

Average number of days over 80° during the school year per county



- 1 – Montgomery
- 2 – Schenectady
- 3 – Putnam
- 4 – Rockland
- 5 – Westchester
- 6 – Brooklyn
- 7 – Queens
- 8 – Nassau

Source: <https://coolingcrisis.org/states/new-york>

Created with mapchart.net

Just use A/C?

- An estimated 41% of U.S. public school districts need to replace or update their HVAC systems in at least half their schools
 - Government Accountability Office Report (June 2020)

Source: <https://coolingcrisis.org>, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/707517.pdf>



KEEP IN MIND: MURPHY'S LAW (OF A/C)

The air conditioning will break when it's needed most



Poll

What percentage of your district's "occupiable educational and support services spaces" do NOT have reliable air conditioning?

- Less than 5%
- 5 to 25%
- 25-75%
- Over 75%
- I don't know



Extreme Heat Condition Days

POLICY REQUIREMENT



Education Law §409-n

- Applicable to all school districts and BOCES
- Effective September 1, 2025, a Policy is required:
 - For ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty and other employees on “extreme heat condition days.”
 - To remove students and staff from occupied spaces, where practicable, at 88°F.



What are “Extreme Heat Condition Days”?

- When an “occupiable educational and support services spaces” are 82°F or higher.
- “Support services spaces” does not include kitchen areas used to prepare food for students.



Where to measure?

- Shaded location
- 3 feet above the floor
- Near the center of the room



What happens at 82°F?

Must take actions to relieve heat-related discomfort, including but not limited to:

- Turn off overhead lights
- Pull down shades or blinds
- Turn on fans
- Open classroom doors and windows
- Turn off unused heat-producing electronics
- Provide water breaks



Keep in mind...

- Building and Fire Code requirements
 - Doors to hallways must be kept closed
 - Doors can only be propped open if they close automatically for fire alarm
 - Minimum light levels for the activity
- Open windows
 - Outdoor air quality (wildfires, pollen)
 - Stinging insects/allergies



What to do at 88°F?

- Remove students and staff from occupied spaces
... where practicable
- Where to go?
 - Cooler areas: depends on each building
 - Continuity of educational activities
- Close school early?



BOCES considerations

- BOCES program held in a school district location, but administered by BOCES staff
 - Should they follow the BOCES policy or the district's policy?
- Follow the district's policy, but coordinate with them so they understand the needs of the BOCES program and students.

Source: NYS Association of Educational Safety & Health Professionals
(BOCES Safety & Health/Risk Management)



Poll

Do all of your district's buildings have cooler areas where students/staff can go if the temp reaches 88°F?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know



Anticipate hot days

- Pre-emptive closure
- Plan for early dismissal



Prepare before September 1

- Take inventory of your district
 - “hot zones” and “cool zones”
 - Outdoor temp → Indoor temp
- Temperatures for your district (June-Sept.)
 - Weather Underground www.wunderground.com/history
- What purchases are necessary?
 - Fans, shades, portable/window A/C units
- Contact your BOCES Occupational Safety & Health/Risk Management

Even if you have A/C



My local school district

The oldest elementary school has two stories and no central air conditioning. Some rooms on the second floor get quite hot.

The district purchased some mobile room air conditioners. They believe this will be adequate, but will monitor these rooms closely, as well as all room generally on hot days.

Last year, the district, like others in the area, had two half-days at the end of the school year when the forecast was 95°F.



Extreme Heat Condition Days

WHAT'S IN OUR POLICY?



NYSSBA Sample Policy (8113)

- References the law, definitions, how to measure.
- Acknowledges use of A/C when available.
- Actions to take at 82°F, consistent with the law
 - Delegation of implementation to the Superintendent, Facilities Director, Building Principals
 - Consistent with collective bargaining agreements
 - Take actions on expected hot days (outdoor forecast)



NYSSBA Sample Policy (8113) (cont.)

Additional:

- Don't use heat-producing electronics in the first place
- Take actions earlier, when forecast at least [__]°F.
 - Depends on your conditions
- Remind students and families to dress appropriately.
- Acknowledges A/C for disabilities/medical needs.

NYSSBA Sample Policy (8113) (cont.)

Actions to take at 88°F:

- Move students and staff to cooler locations
- Close school early
 - Per district protocols

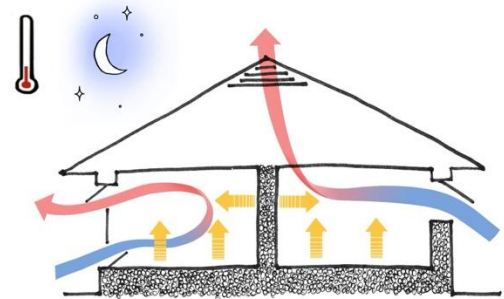
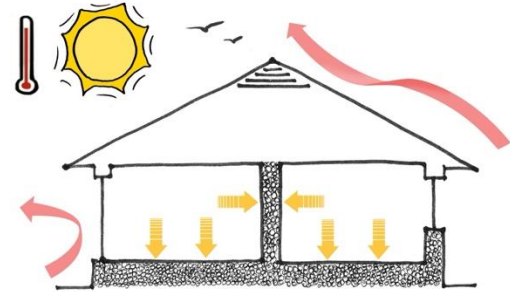
Additional:

- Pre-emptively close school when forecast to reach 88°F even with mitigation measures.
- Remote instruction option



Other actions

- Take actions earlier in the day
- Cool down at night/morning
 - Consider building security
- Classroom plants



Additional Actions

- Alternative testing locations
- Facilities
 - Solar shades
 - Reflective roof/window coatings
 - Shade structures/trees
 - Seal gaps
- Revise calendar



Extreme Heat Condition Days

WHAT'S NOT IN OUR POLICY?



Implementation

- Who checks the temperature?
- When does it get checked?
- Who takes the actions?
- When are the actions taken?
- Which actions are taken?
- Where will students/staff go?



Superintendent and
administrative/building
staff decide



Chat

How do you foresee this requirement being implemented in your district?

Do you think your district will exercise more heat closures because of the new law?

Will your district need to spend significant resources to comply with the new law?



QUESTIONS?

Please email policy@nyssba.org



THANK YOU!

