HEWLETT-WOODMERE UFSD **Policy #8113**

(X) Required
(X) Local
(X) Notice

EXTREME HEAT CONDITION DAYS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of the health and safety of students and employees on extreme heat condition days. "Extreme heat condition days" are defined by law as when occupiable educational and support services spaces are eighty-two degrees Fahrenheit (82°F) or higher. Under the law, "support services spaces" do not include kitchen areas used in the preparation of food for consumption by students. The law requires room temperature to be measured at a shaded location, three feet above the floor near the center of the room.

Air conditioners, where available, may also be used to keep temperatures from reaching eighty-two degrees (82°F), or to lower the temperature once it does. Evaporative cooling techniques may be feasible in some situations.

Actions to be Taken at Eighty-Two Degrees

When the temperature of an occupiable educational or support service space reaches eighty-two degrees Fahrenheit (82°F), the District will take actions to relieve heat-related discomfort (consistent with fire and building codes), including but not limited to the following:

1. Turn off the overhead lights;
2. Pull down/lower shades or blinds;
3. Turn on fans to enhance air circulation;
4. Open classroom doors and windows, if safe, to increase circulation;
5. Turn off unused or non-essential electronics that produce heat; and
6. Provide regular water breaks to ensure hydration.

The Superintendent of Schools, in collaboration with the Director of Facilities and Building Principals will determine the appropriate actions to be taken (District-wide and building-level), the timeline for implementation and the responsible personnel, in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements. The District may designate personnel to regularly monitor room temperature during school hours, particularly during warmer months of the school year.

On days when the outside temperature is expected to reach at least eighty degrees (80°F), the District may take the actions listed above earlier in the day or before school starts, when the temperature is lower. The Superintendent and Director of Facilities will develop strategies to cool the District's occupiable educational and support services spaces during hot days. The District will also remind students and their families to dress appropriately for the weather, to the extent practicable, using the District's established communication channels.

Actions to be Taken at Eighty-Eight Degrees

Students and staff will be removed from educational and support services spaces when the temperature reaches eighty-eight degrees Fahrenheit (88°F), when practicable. The Superintendent will direct Building Principals to evacuate the space, including but not limited to the following:

1. Promptly move students and staff to cooler locations; or
2. If internal relocation is not feasible, consider closing school early and sending students and staff home according to the District's early closing protocols; or
3. Other appropriate measures to ensure safety.

On days when the outside temperature is expected to be high enough that temperatures in occupiable educational or support service spaces are likely to reach eighty-eight degrees (88°F), , even with the heat mitigation measures taken, the District may transition classes to remote instruction for the whole or part of the school day (in accordance with the Board-approved emergency remote instruction plan or protocols) or close school entirely (in accordance with required minimum instructional time). The District will provide timely notification to students and parents using the District's established communication channels of such transitions to remote learning or school closures. The Board hereby expressly authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or their designee to make this decision. Remote learning may be District-wide or building-level.

During exams, if the temperature reaches eighty-eight degrees (88°F) in spaces where exams are being administered, students and staff will be evacuated from the exam room, and testing will resume at a time and place when and where it is safe to do so. On exam days when the outside temperature is expected to be high enough that the temperatures in spaces where exams are being administered are likely to reach eighty-eight degrees (88°F), even with the heat mitigation measures taken, the District will attempt to find alternate locations to administer exams.

Cross-ref: 4765, Online, Distance and Remote Learning

Ref: Education Law §§409-n; 2801-a

Adoption date: June 11, 2025