



EXTREME HEAT CONDITION DAYS

August 18, 2025

OVERVIEW



New legislation requires that school districts develop a plan to mitigate extreme heat in classrooms and support services spaces effective September 1, 2025.



Extreme heat condition days are defined as days when these spaces reach 82 degrees or greater.



Develop a policy for actions that will be taken, including a plan to remove students and staff from occupied spaces **where practicable** when the spaces reach 88°F.



Actions must also be added to districts' policies and procedures for response to emergency situations, including building level emergency plans.

3529 Extreme Heat Condition Days

The Board of Education adopts this policy to address the health and safety of students and employees on extreme heat condition days. “Extreme heat condition days” are defined as days when occupiable educational and support services spaces are eighty-two degrees Fahrenheit or higher. “Support services spaces” do not include kitchen areas used in the preparation of food for consumption by students. Pursuant to Education Law § 409-n, room temperature will be measured at a shaded location, three feet above the floor near the center of the room....

At 80 Degrees (outside)



When outside temperatures reach 80 degrees, our staff will initiate temperature monitoring efforts by measuring the temperature in a shaded location, three feet above the floor near the center of the room.



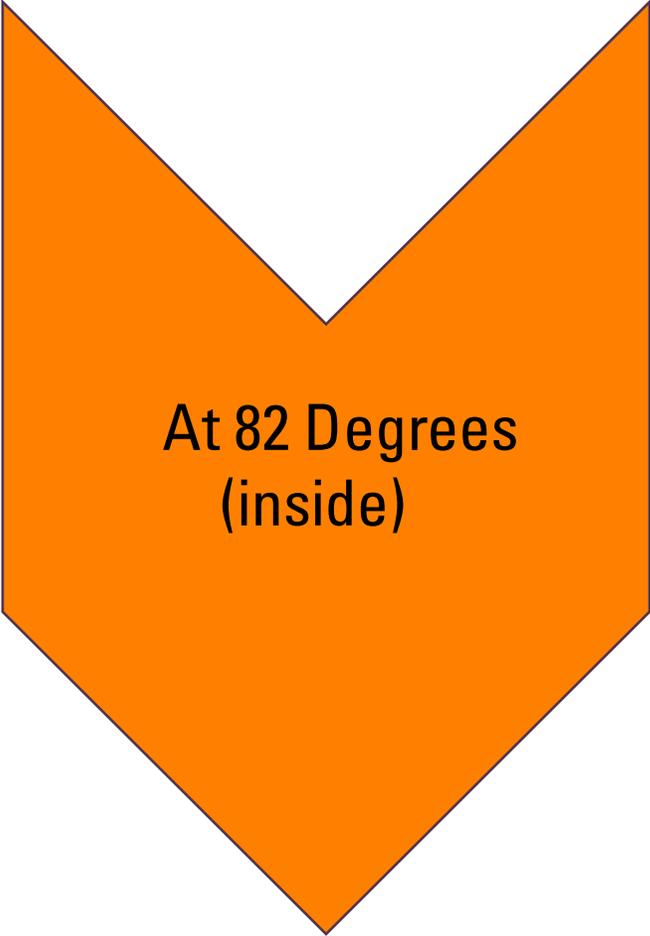
Temperature monitoring efforts in student classrooms and support services spaces will be recorded for historical reference.



Temperature monitoring will be conducted in select rooms which will be identified in our survey and data collection efforts, including those that warrant specific consideration, (i.e., those on the upper floors of the buildings, rooms facing south or with significant sunlight exposure.)



Periodic checks will be made throughout the course of the day in different locations looking for any specific heating trends and to identify the real-time temperatures in the buildings.



At 82 Degrees
(inside)



When the temperature goes above the action level of 82 degrees or higher (but lower than 88 degrees) we will initiate these actions to relieve heat-related discomfort, and we will encourage all staff to work collaboratively to start these actions to minimize the temperature/heat:

Turn off overhead lights

Pull down window shades or close blinds

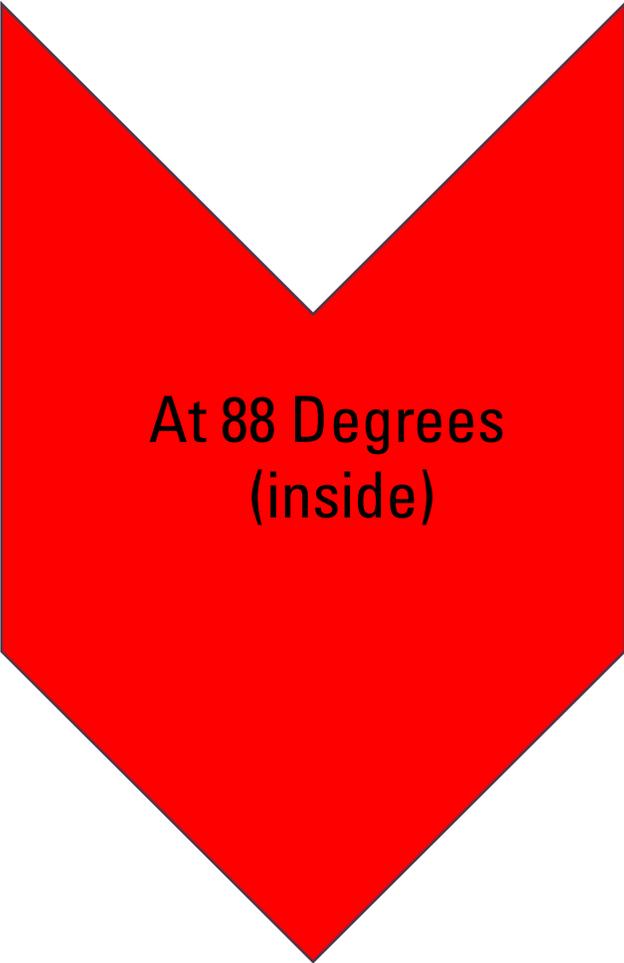
Turn on fans (if available)

Open classroom doors and windows to increase circulation (where applicable)

Turn off unused electronics that produce heat

Provide frequent water breaks

Investigate outside areas (with shade, if applicable to the building grounds) where outside learning may take place in a cooler environment.



At 88 Degrees
(inside)



In locations where the temperature goes above 88 degrees, our plan is to rotate students and staff to other areas in the building. These may be areas with air conditioning such as the libraries or auditoriums.



Other spaces such as cafeterias and gymnasiums will be outfitted with large commercial fans to increase air circulation and help lower the temperature.



If the heat is deemed to be excessive in most areas of the building, then the district will initiate the early closing protocols to send students and staff home.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS



Parents/guardians will be notified when weather forecasts indicate a high temperature day is coming and reminded to have the students dress appropriately with light colored clothing and to bring water bottles to school



Upon receiving a high temperature forecast for the upcoming day, school staff will collaboratively and proactively initiate the 82-degree action plan prior to the next day of school, to help minimize the classroom temperatures for the following day (i.e., pulling down window shades before leaving for the day)



The District will send out daily temperature expectations to staff to remind them of the actions they must adhere to, in accordance with Board of Education policy, should the classroom temperatures reach the above prescribed heat action levels



Policy information is posted and available under Parent Resources on the New Back to School webpage



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Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Theresa DeLeva, District Clerk

Dear Patchogue-Medford Community,

As we prepare for another exciting academic year, I want to inform you about two significant pieces of legislation that New York State has enacted, requiring all school districts to establish comprehensive written board policies. The first policy addresses the use of internet-enabled devices, about which you have already received detailed information. The second policy, which I'm writing to discuss today, focuses on extreme heat conditions during the school day.

At our August 4, 2025, Board of Education meeting, our district officially adopted the Extreme Heat Condition Days Policy. You can access the complete policy using the link provided below or by visiting our district website. ([3529- Extreme Heat Condition Days](#))

The health and safety of our students and staff remain our highest priority. We recognize that during the first few weeks of school, classroom temperatures may reach 82 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. To address this challenge, I have been working closely with our administrative team to develop a comprehensive action plan designed to minimize heat-related discomfort and maintain a conducive learning environment. Temperature measurements will be taken at shaded locations, three feet above floor level, near the center of each classroom, to ensure accurate and consistent readings. This is in direct accordance with the protocols prescribed by the Governor's law.

We are committed to taking every necessary step to avoid school closures or early dismissals due to extreme heat conditions. Our facilities staff, administrators, and teachers are working together to implement proactive measures that will help us maintain normal school operations whenever possible. It is recommended that students be sent to school wearing light colored clothing, with water bottles, etc.

However, we believe in keeping our community informed and prepared. There may be circumstances where the district needs to implement either:

- Early dismissal due to unsafe heat conditions
- Remote learning day to ensure educational continuity

While we are dedicated to avoiding disruptions, families must have an emergency plan in place should the district need to pivot quickly to early dismissal or remote learning. Our Remote Learning Plan is posted on the district website and outlines procedures.

The Patchogue-Medford School Community's Mission is to provide diverse pathways and varied enrichment opportunities that will lead to meaningful learning experiences for all students.

Before the start of the school year, please:

1. Review our Extreme Heat Condition Days Board of Education Policy
2. Review our Remote Learning Plan ([Full Remote Schedules](#))
3. Develop your family's emergency plan for potential early dismissal scenarios to ensure your student's safe arrival home.
4. Ensure emergency contact information is current with your child's school

Should you have any questions about our Extreme Heat Policy or Remote Learning Plan, please don't hesitate to contact your child's school or the district office.

Thank you for your partnership as we begin this new school year together.

Warm regards,

Lori Cannetti
Interim Superintendent of Schools



QUESTIONS?

