

Air Quality

In times of poor air quality, we have a system in place to ensure that we are utilizing the most up-to-date information available to help guide our decisions in whether to allow students to go outside for recess and when to keep them indoors.

When the quality of our local air is in question, we first monitor the Washington Department of Ecology's website at <https://enviwa.ecology.wa.gov/mobile/>, <https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>, <https://www.airnow.gov/>, <https://www2.purpleair.com>.

After we have evaluated the most recent air quality reports, we cross reference the labels provided with recommendations for air pollution and school activities by the Washington State Department of Health. [Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality](#) If the air quality is labeled as unhealthy for sensitive groups (orange dot), we restrict all students with breathing challenges from outdoor activities and provide alternative options. If the air quality reaches the unhealthy (red dot) or very unhealthy/hazardous range (purple dot), we restrict all students from participating in outdoor activities including recess, P.E., and athletics.

After our initial findings for the day, we continuously monitor the air quality and make adjustments throughout the day as needed to protect the health and safety of our students and staff members.

Outdoor Temperature

The Selah School District uses the following guidelines when making hot and cold weather decisions. For school recesses and outdoor activities, the [Weather Watch](#) chart is used and referred to on an hourly basis when the weather reaches temperatures of concern. For athletics, the following guidelines from the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) [Heat Index](#) are used.

Lightning

The Selah School District monitors the current weather conditions and the weather forecast for thunder and lightning for both school activities like recess and outside physical education classes as well as outside activities and athletics. School officials will monitor lightning strikes and then implement a five color system to advise students, staff and families of the current conditions and the forecast.

① LEVEL 1 — GREEN

No nearby storms, no threat of acclimate weather. Outdoor activities are permitted.

② LEVEL 2 — YELLOW

Nearby storms, threat of acclimate weather, no lightning strikes within 30 miles. Outdoor activities are permitted.

③ LEVEL 3 — ORANGE

Lightning strikes within 20-30 miles. Coaches, staff, and administrators should exercise good judgment in evaluating appropriate activities given current conditions.

④ LEVEL 4 — RED

Lightning strikes within 10-20 miles. Coaches, staff, and administrators should increase their monitoring of lightning strikes at weatherbug.com/alerts/spark. Preparations should be made to move indoors, including public announcements for all public events to inform participants of potential lightning strikes.

⑤ LEVEL 4 — PURPLE

Lightning strikes within 10 miles. Individuals should move to a safe location as per site specific plans. Individuals must remain indoors for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike within 10 miles.