

TEMPERATURE STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS

Purpose

The RSU No. 5 School Department is committed to maintaining safe, healthy, and comfortable learning and working environments. These guidelines are established in alignment with ASHRAE Standard 55 (Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy) and Maine LD 1 - *An Act to Improve Public Health Regarding Indoor Air Quality in Schools*.

Standards

- Heating Season (October - April): During occupied hours, classrooms, offices, gyms, cafeteria, auditoriums, and other school spaces will be maintained at 68-72°F.
- Cooling Season (May - September): Where mechanical cooling exists, occupied spaces will be maintained at 73-77°F.
- Non-Air-Conditioned Spaces: In buildings without cooling, conditions may exceed comfort ranges during high outdoor heat. If indoor temperatures rise above 80-84°F (consistent with ASHRAE 55 and U.S. Department of Energy guidance), the Facilities Department and Superintendent will determine responses, which may include fans, relocation, schedule adjustments, or in rare cases, early dismissal.
- Occupancy and Room Type: Consistent with ASHRAE Standard 55, HVAC setpoints are based on expected occupancy and room type to balance comfort with energy efficiency. Large assembly areas (gyms, cafeterias, auditoriums) may be maintained at lower baselines, with conditions adjusting during full use.

Measurement

Temperature conditions will be evaluated using a central reading at ~ 5 feet above the floor in a closed zone, consistent with ASHRAE 55. This provides an objective and consistent standard of record, recognizing that localized hot or cold spots may exist near windows, doors, or vents.

Flexibility

- Large spaces may be maintained at steady setpoints without after-hours setbacks due to system design and usage.
- After-hours or special events may require adjustments; building administrators may coordinate with Facilities for extended control.

Limitations

Extreme weather, aging equipment, or system failures may temporarily prevent adherence. In such cases, Facilities will act promptly to restore conditions and communicate with administrators.

Legal Reference: ASHRAE Standard 55

Maine LD 1: *Indoor Air Quality in Schools*

U.S. Department of Energy / EPA: *EnergySmart Schools, IAQ Tools for Schools*

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