

# Severe Cold Response Plans



## EXTREME COLD WARNING

Schools will be closed under the condition of an extreme cold warning. An extreme cold warning indicates that life-threatening conditions and a risk to safety exists. Measures should be taken to safeguard life and property immediately. An extreme cold warning is typically issued when the wind chill will be  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  or colder OR the actual air temperature is  $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$  or less.

## COLD WEATHER ADVISORY

A cold weather advisory is issued when conditions do not meet the extreme cold warning criteria but still cause significant inconvenience. The weather during a cold weather advisory is not life threatening but presents conditions that may result in inconveniences or pose moderate risk to safety. A cold weather advisory is typically issued when the wind chill is  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  or colder or the actual air temperature is  $-5^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-14^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

### GENERAL RANGE



Wind Chill  
 $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  or less  
OR  
Actual Air  
Temperature  
 $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$  or less

### EXTREME COLD WARNING: SCHOOL CLOSURE

- Classes will be cancelled and school closure protocols will be instituted
- All notification systems will be leveraged to send school cancellation communications to families
- Extracurricular activities will be suspended while the extreme cold warning is in effect

### GENERAL RANGE



Wind Chill  
 $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-29^{\circ}\text{F}$   
OR  
Actual Air  
Temperature  
 $-5^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-14^{\circ}\text{F}$



### COLD WEATHER ADVISORY: COLD ACTION DAY

- Schools will be open and student attendance is expected
- When safety allows, buses will pick up all student walkers regardless of route assignment
- Fire and Police will be notified prior to the start of the school day of the Cold Action designation
- School administrators will be given authority to keep students in the building in the event of a fire alarm and will relocate students to a safe location within the building; in the event of an evacuation, administrators will institute parallel evacuation protocols to return students to a safe interior location
- Extracurricular activities will be evaluated and may be suspended if conditions persist; updates will be posted on each school's website
- All off-campus activities will be suspended (this includes but is not limited to: all off-site daytime programs, field trips, and work programs)
- Scheduled student transports between buildings will be assessed
- All outside student activities will be suspended
- All lab-based activities that have potential to cause fire or smoke alarm activation will be reevaluated or rescheduled; communication and coordination with the impacted departments will be conducted by building administration
- Students will be allowed to keep outerwear with them while in the building
- Schools will make announcements to provide access to donated outerwear to all students

**NOTE:** The National Weather Service (NWS) is the meteorological source to determine and declare an extreme cold warning or a cold weather advisory. <http://www.weather.gov/> This document has been updated to reflect the National Weather Service revised Cold Weather Guidance.

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