



Inspired Teaching

Demonstration School

Intellect • Inquiry • Imagination • Integrity

Inclement and Severe Weather Policies

Inclement Weather

The Inspired Teaching Demonstration School follows DC Public Schools in cases of inclement weather closings or delays. All families are automatically subscribed to the school's text alert system. In cases of emergency or time-sensitive information, the school will send a text and email message. The School will send an email, text alert, and post on social media when school is closed or opening is delayed.

Severe Weather Policy

Inspired Teaching Demonstration School is committed to providing students with regular opportunities for outdoor activity and physical movement while maintaining a safe learning environment. Outdoor play is strongly encouraged in most weather conditions and students will go outside for recess and physical education (PE) classes unless weather conditions pose a safety risk. Safety determinations are based on a variety of factors - temperature, wind chill, heat index, precipitation, air quality, and playground conditions.

In extreme circumstances, the principal has the authority to make policy modifications in the moment as needed to prioritize student health, supervision capacity, and surface safety. This general policy establishes consistent guidelines for determining when outdoor recess, physical education (PE), and school activities may be modified or moved indoors due to weather or environmental conditions.

Temperature Guidelines

Cold Weather

Outdoor Recess/activities will be permitted when:

- **Temperature or wind chill is 32°F and above** → Full recess /PE block
- **20–31°F (including wind chill)** → Modified recess /PE block [12-15 minutes]
- **Below 20°F (including wind chill)** → Outdoor recess cancelled; indoor alternative activity required for recess and all PE classes scheduled for the day

Additional considerations:

- Students must wear appropriate outerwear (coat, gloves, hat when needed) to be prepared for cold weather recess
- If a significant number of students (more than 50% of the homeroom class) lack proper clothing, the division leader and/or principal may modify or cancel the outdoor recess block.

Hot Weather

Outdoor Recess/activities will be permitted when:

- **Heat index below 90°F** → Full recess /PE block
- **Heat index 90–99°F** → Modified recess block /PE block [12-15 minutes], water breaks required
- **Heat index 100°F or above** → Outdoor recess cancelled; indoor alternative activity required for recess and all PE classes scheduled for the day

Additional considerations:

- Students with pre-existing medical conditions that may be exacerbated by the heat (need an alternative activity)
- Outdoor physical exertion should be reduced during high heat. Lessons for physical education classes may need to be modified
- Educators / staff on duty ensure hydration is available and encouraged before, during, and after recess

Air Quality

Outdoor Recess/activities will be permitted when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is between 0-100 (Good/Moderate). Outdoor activity will be modified/cancelled as follows:

- **AQI 101–150** (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) → Modified outdoor activity; students with preexisting conditions may remain indoors
- **AQI 151+** (Unhealthy) → Outdoor activities cancelled

Precipitation & Ground Conditions

Outdoor recess/PE classes and activities may be canceled or modified due to:

- Active lightning/thunder
- Heavy rain
- Ice accumulation
- Snow that creates unsafe footing
- Standing water/mud that presents slipping hazards
- Playground equipment deemed unsafe

Note: Light rain or snow does not automatically cancel recess if surfaces remain safe.

Lightning Protocol

If thunder is heard or lightning observed:

- Student and staff move indoors immediately
- Outdoor activity may resume 15 minutes after the last observed thunder/lightening event

Indoor Recess Plan

When outdoor recess is cancelled, educators implement structured indoor activities. In most instances, students are able to choose the types of activities they'd like to participate in. Indoor activities may include:

- Supervised hallway walking circuits and coordinated physical activity/games
- Whole group movement games and/or activities
- Paired and/or small ground activities and games

Note: Screen based activities (computer games, movies, tablets, etc.) are not permitted.