NUSD Heat Plan

The district will not close schools due to hot weather but may call for minimum days at some schools under specific circumstances. We do not close schools as we believe that our schools are the best place for our students, even in most extreme weather conditions. We also appreciate that parents have the option to pick their children up early or to keep students home from school if they believe that is in the best interest of their child.

Timeline of events for when the forecasted temperature is 95° or higher with a heat index of 103° or higher (benchmark levels) based upon data from http://www.weather.gov, the National Weather Service’s official website.

Day 1 of weather exceeding benchmark levels:
- Superintendent or Designee will monitor temperatures and communicate to school staff to implement the District Heat Guidelines (in development)
- If at noon of Day 1, the National Weather Service forecast for Day 2 predicts weather exceeding benchmark levels, a minimum day would be called at schools that cannot provide air conditioned learning spaces for all children for Day 2.

Day 2 of weather exceeding benchmark levels:
- Day 2 will be a minimum day for schools without air conditioned learning spaces for all students.
- Superintendent or Designee will monitor temperatures and communicate to staff to implement the District Heat Guidelines (in development)
- If at noon of Day 2, the National Weather Service forecast for Day 3 predicts weather exceeding benchmark levels, a minimum day would be called at schools that cannot provide air conditioned learning spaces for all children for Day 3.

We will not call a minimum day the first day that weather meets or exceeds benchmark levels. If the National Weather Service predicts that conditions will meet or exceed benchmark levels the following day, a minimum day schedule will be scheduled by noon on day one of conditions meeting or exceeding benchmark levels.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are a top priority. We want to make sure they are as comfortable as possible so that learning can continue. As a result, our schools will have a number of guidelines in place for planning instruction during extremely hot weather.
Instructional Program Modifications

When temperatures near benchmark levels, elementary teachers may rearrange the daily schedule so that basic skills subjects are taught at the optimal time. Recess activities will be limited to quiet games that require a minimum of physical activity. Physical education activities at all grade levels will be limited to less strenuous activities and/or will be rescheduled to a more appropriate time.

Alternative Locations for Instruction

Cooler areas of schools, buildings and grounds will be used when available. As an example, some teachers may have students gather in shaded lawn areas or move to rooms with better cross-ventilation. Students in non-air-conditioned spaces may be merged with other classes in air-conditioned buildings, such as media centers, cafeterias or auditoriums.

Extracurricular Activities

Athletic activities and practices may be canceled due to hot weather, or rescheduled for a more appropriate time. Before- and after-school programs may also be modified or activities rearranged.

Keeping Students Cool and Hydrated

Students are encouraged to bring containers of water to school during hot weather. Water fountains are available in all schools and schools are to encourage students to take extra water fountain breaks throughout the day.

Students are asked to dress in lightweight clothing that is aligned with their school dress codes. Parents and guardians are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their children before school, as school staff are not permitted to apply it. If a child has a medical condition or may be compromised by exposure to high temperatures, parents or guardians may keep them at home or arrange for an early release.

More Information

- Extreme Heat FAQ [English] [Spanish]
- Extreme Heat Resources: [English] [Spanish]
- How Can I Protect My Children from the Sun? [English] [Spanish]
- [National Weather Service]