

SAFETY BULLETIN



Attention: Risk Management, School Principals, Superintendents,
Curriculum, Communications, Health Services, HR

July 2026

Extreme Weather

Beginning July 1, 2026, all school districts in California are required to have extreme weather protocols in place that prioritize student health. Senate Bill 1248 (SB 1248), became law in 2024 and instructed the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop standardized guidelines to help schools determine when weather conditions may pose a risk to student safety, especially during outdoor physical activities.

What This Means for Schools

Under Education Code §33355, all school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education must **develop, adopt, and implement extreme weather protocols by July 1, 2026**. These protocols must align with the CDE's guidelines and include:

- Clear criteria for when outdoor activities should be modified or canceled
- Procedures for monitoring weather and air quality conditions
- Communication plans for staff, students, and families
- Indoor alternatives for physical activity
- Staff training in recognizing and responding to weather-related illness
- Coordination with local agencies for timely weather information

These protocols must also be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing conditions and best practices.

The protocols will apply to all outdoor events including physical education, recess, lunch periods, after-school programs, summer programs, and field trips.



Understanding Heat Risk Levels

A key component of the guidelines is the *California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Heat Risk Grid*, which outlines five levels of heat threats:

Green (0) – Minimal Risk	Normal Activities can continue
Yellow (1) – Minor Risk	Increase hydration and limit time in direct sun
Orange (2) – Moderate Risk	Adjust schedules; reduce time outdoors
Red (3) – Major Risk	Cancel outdoor activities during peak heat (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
Magenta (4) – Extreme Risk	Cancel all outdoor activities

At higher risk levels (Red and Magenta), heat can be dangerous for all students, especially young children and those with health conditions, and requires significant changes to school routines. For additional information and to view the full Heat Risk Grid, visit the [CDPH website](#).

Beyond Heat: A Broader Approach to Safety

While heat is a major focus, the guidelines also encourage schools to consider:

- Air quality (AQI), including wildfire smoke
- Rain, flooding, and other hazardous conditions
- Access to shade, hydration, and cooling areas

District Responsibility

SB 1248 places clear responsibility on district leadership to ensure compliance. Districts should implement systems that:

- Standardize safety protocols across all campuses
- Provide real-time monitoring and alerts
- Maintain clear documentation
- Provide staff training

These new requirements reinforce a shared responsibility: ensuring that students remain safe, healthy, and able to learn even as weather conditions become more extreme.

*SIA has a template labeled **Extreme Weather Conditions** to assist with establishing district protocols. You can access it on our SIA website under [Forms](#).*