



West Contra Costa Schools

Air Quality & Power Outages Guidelines

HOW TO USE THIS CHART:

1. On days with questionable air quality, the superintendent shall check the Bay Area Air Quality district website (www.baaqmd.gov) at 5:00 am. District officials will refer to airnow.gov website for additional readings and guidance.
2. If the Air Quality Index (AQI) is listed at 171 or above, classes may be canceled. The superintendent will notify parents, staff, and community when classes are canceled.
3. District/Site staff shall be informed of any and all restrictions that are in place based on the AQI as noted on the table below.
4. At an AQI of 185 or above the district will be closed. Essential personnel (maintenance, payroll operations, administrative) may be called to work

AQI Index	Recommended Actions				
	School in Session?	Recess / Lunch	Physical Education	Athletic Practice & Training	Scheduled Sporting Events
GOOD (0-50)	Yes	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions
MODERATE (51-100) Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion	Yes	Ensure unusually sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition	Ensure unusually sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.	Ensure unusually sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.	Ensure unusually sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (101-150)¹ Everyone should limit prolonged or heavy outdoor activities, especially children, older adults, and people with heart or lung disease. All doors and windows must remain closed throughout the day.	Yes	On campus/indoor lunch strongly recommended for all high school students; Mandatory for Elem/Middle.	Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 min per hour. May move indoors or modify activity as necessary.	Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 min per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. May move indoors or modify activity as necessary.	Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat. May move indoors or modify activity as necessary.
UNHEALTHY (151-200) The following groups should avoid all physical outdoor activity: People with heart or lung disease, children and older adults. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.	Yes (<170)	No outdoor activity.	No outdoor activity.	No outdoor activity.	Event must be rescheduled or relocated.
	No (> 171) Schools closed at district's discretion No ≥ 185 school closed	All activities should be moved indoors.	All activities should be moved indoors.	All activities should be moved indoors.	
VERY UNHEALTHY (201-300) Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.	No	No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.	No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.	No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.	Event must be rescheduled or relocated.
HAZARDOUS (300-500) Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.	No	No outdoor activity. Avoid any prolonged, moderate, or vigorous indoor activity.	No outdoor activity. Avoid any prolonged, moderate, or vigorous indoor activity.	No outdoor activity. Avoid any prolonged, moderate, or vigorous indoor activity.	No outdoor activity. Avoid any prolonged, moderate, or vigorous indoor activity.

1) **Sensitive Groups** include all children under age 18 and adults with asthma or other heart/lung condition

PG&E Power Outages**Recommended Actions**

	School in Session?	Recess / Lunch	Physical Education	Athletic Practice & Training	Scheduled Sporting Events
If a power outage is planned for a school starting the night before a school day	No	No	No	No	No
If during a school day, power goes out before 10:00 A.M, a minimum day schedule will go in effect and parents/guardians will be notified.	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	TBD	TBD
If during a school day, power goes out after 10:00 A.M, school will proceed for the regular day	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	TBD	TBD

*School site administrators will need to make decisions based on the potential safety impacts to students.

Decision Making

When the Air Quality Index (AQI) indicates the air quality is above 150 at a site or district wide, there will be an emergency meeting called within the hour with the district WCCUSD Solutions Team to determine whether or not to close schools for the next day. The Solutions Team will make a recommendation to the Superintendent about school closure. The Superintendent will determine next steps in a timely fashion.

If the AQI indicates, the air quality is above 185, schools will be automatically closed the next day per the direction of the Superintendent in line with Board Policy 3516.5.

Closure of schools by area

Area/site dependent closures may be determined according to the AQI levels of the community/area/school. The decision will also be based on whether the school is able to prevent unhealthy air from entering the school on a consistent basis.

Sensitive Groups

All children who suffer from asthma are pregnant or suffer of other heart/lung conditions may be excused from school with a doctor's note without penalties when air quality becomes Moderate or hits an AQI of 101. Staff who suffer from similar conditions may be excused in collaboration with their supervisor.

Ventilation System

Ventilation Systems are recommended to be shut off to prevent any hazardous material and smoke from entering the classrooms when the AQI shows 101 or higher.

Air conditioning at sites available will be turned on or continue to be used. When temperatures in classrooms at a site due to the closing of ventilation systems or turning AC off gets to 85 degrees or higher the school may be closed.

Communication

All communication to families and staff will be done through the communications department at WCCUSD. The website will be updated immediately about the situation and related issues that arise. The WCCUSD Facebook page and Twitter will also be updated to provide families with information. Emails may also be sent as well as automated phone calls.

Food for students

Upon school closures, the nutrition center and district will create contingency plan to continue serving free breakfast and lunches to students just like during a holiday break where possible. WCCUSD will put out an all call for volunteers who can help with the distribution of food.