



Guidelines for School Personnel

Exposure to cold can cause injury or serious illness such as frostbite or hypothermia. These cold emergencies can occur quickly in children and especially in children with special health care needs, chronic illnesses (i.e. asthma) and sensitivity to cold.

The following recommendations are guidelines for allowing students to remain outdoors at student arrival time in the morning and recess. The guidelines are dependent on a daily check of the current local weather conditions, including air temperature and wind chill, to determine the actual outdoor temperature. This information should be accessed at Weatherbug at www.weatherbug.com. Weatherbug is a national weather service that provides current local weather information. It can be easily downloaded to your computer at no cost.

The following procedure should be followed each morning and lunchtime:

1. The building Administrator or his/her designee will obtain the current weather conditions including air temperature and wind speed from Weatherbug at www.weatherbug.com
2. If the combined temperature and wind speed (this number is provided by Weatherbug) is below 32°, the children should not wait outside to enter the building in the morning or go outside for recess.
3. An announcement should be made to the staff informing them of the temperature. (The staff must be informed prior to implementation of the cold weather plan that the children should not be outdoors for a combined temperature below 32°.)
4. Before lunch, the building Administrator or his/her designee will obtain the current weather conditions from Weatherbug. If the mid day check of the current weather indicates that the combined temperature has increased to above 32°, it is considered safe to bring children, appropriately dressed for winter weather, outdoors for recess. The building Administrator or his/her designee should announce the current temperature for the staff.