

<i><b>Rainy River District School Board</b></i>	<b>SECTION 7</b> <i>Health &amp; Safety</i>
<b>EXTREME WEATHER</b>	<b>7.18</b>

## **POLICY**

The Rainy River District School Board will establish guidelines for schools during periods of extreme weather to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the health and safety of students.

## **RATIONALE**

Children need an opportunity to get exercise and have free play time outdoors. However, weather conditions sometimes warrant indoor routines or a reduced activity level.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

As per Procedure 7.18, Extreme Weather.

## **GUIDELINES**

- 1.1 Conditions that may require indoor routines or a change in normal practice are:
  - Rain, freezing rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, ice, extreme winds
  - Extreme cold weather – when temperature and/or wind chill are -25 Celsius or below
  - Extreme hot weather – when the humidex is over 40 Celsius
- 1.2 Outdoor breaks will be held if the temperature is warmer than -25 Celsius (including wind chill). Principals or designates will refer to readings from Environment Canada or other resources for weather information. The specifics of the local situation should be considered. Some schools have protected areas where the effects of wind and sun are mitigated while others are very exposed.
- 1.3 For temperatures slightly colder than -25 Celsius, principals or designates may keep students inside or may shorten the outside break.
- 1.4 Principals or designates have the option to keep students indoors when the humidex is approaching the extremely hot weather threshold (i.e., over 35 Celsius).
- 1.5 Schools staff will raise awareness of the policy with parents/guardians and students through regular communication practices (i.e., newsletters, morning announcements, parent communication tools) and remind parents/guardians and students to dress appropriately for the weather.

### **Definitions:**

Humidex refers to the perceived temperature based on a combined measurement of air temperature and humidity.

<u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	LEGAL/MINISTRY OF
	September 3, 2019	<u>EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
Procedure 7.18 Extreme Weather	<u>Board Motion</u> 51	
Policy 7.22 Emergency Response	<u>Review Prior to</u>	
	2024	
Procedure 7.22 Emergency Response		