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AIR QUALITY POLICY**Outdoor Air Quality Safety**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to restrict physical activities in school or at school-sponsored activities during episodes of poor air quality. The Board also recognizes the importance of working with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (hereafter the “Valley Air District”) to monitor the quality of air for the health and safety of our students and employees. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to develop and implement regulations and procedures to meet protocols set forth by the Valley Air District.

The objective of the Outdoor Air Quality Safety program is to:

- A. Continually monitor the ozone or fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentrations as measured by the Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) and reported by the Valley Air District;
- B. To implement procedures designed to lessen and prevent unhealthful consequences from polluted air conditions;
- C. To respond to outdoor physical activity recommendations developed by the Valley Air District in consultation with health researchers at U.S. EPA, UCSF, CSU-Fresno, UC Berkeley, and the Fresno/Madera Medical Society, as presented in the Real-Time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) guidelines (Exhibit no. 5141.28).

It is the responsibility of the school site principal, nurse, athletic director, or other designated staff to implement the Outdoor Air Quality Safety procedures by:

- A. Consulting with the Superintendent who oversees this work area.
- B. Monitoring the changes in air pollution during the course of each day using RAAN.
- C. Enforcing the physical activity restrictions placed on each child and employee in accordance with ROAR guidelines.
- D. Working cooperatively with the Valley Air District to ensure policies and procedures are updated and reflective of emerging federal and state air quality standards.

Definitions

When the air quality reported by RAAN reaches Level 1, air quality is considered “Good” and no action is needed.

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When the air quality reported by RAAN reaches Level 2, air quality is considered “Moderate”. Ensure that sensitive individuals (i.e. for those who have a history of asthma, heart disease, or other respiratory ailments) are medically managing their conditions in accordance with their physicians’ recommendations.

When the air quality reported by RAAN reaches Level 3, air quality is considered “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”. Special consideration must be given to outdoor physical activity for sensitive individuals. Ensure they are medically managing their conditions.

When the air quality reported by RAAN reaches Level 4, air quality is considered “Unhealthy”. Outdoor activities should be moved indoors if possible. All students and adults should be cautious and curtail or modify outdoor activities in accordance with ROAR guidelines, and avoid any prolonged exertion. Sensitive students and adults should participate only in indoor activities.

When the air quality reported by RAAN reaches Level 5, air quality is considered “Very Unhealthy”. All outdoor activities should be moved indoors, and outdoor athletic classes, practices, and sporting events must be rescheduled or relocated.

Advanced Planning by School Site Staff

1. Develop and maintain a file of students and staff who have or are susceptible to respiratory problems. The file should contain data on the location of such persons at different times during the day.
2. Review with staff, generally, the procedures to be followed for those at high risk and for all students during various levels of air pollution episodes, either ordinary or extraordinary.
3. Review with physical education teachers and other teachers directing strenuous activity programs the alternate programs available during an air pollution episode, either ordinary or extraordinary.
4. Principals should familiarize themselves and other appropriate personnel with the communication network and the distribution of information to all staff.

Transmission of Information on Air Pollution

Superintendent or designee will assign appropriate staff at each school site the task of providing information to students and personnel regarding alerts of poor air quality from the Valley Air District.

1. The principal or designated school staff shall sign up for RAAN notifications from valleyair.org/RAAN or myraan.com. An automated RAAN email or text message notification is sent between 7 am and 8 pm when air pollution concentrations enter the Level

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3 range (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups). Subsequent emails and texts will be sent if concentration levels rise to Level 4 (Unhealthy) or Level 5 (Very Unhealthy). When air quality improves, notification will also be sent.

2. The principal or designee will notify the athletic director, physical education teachers, and other relevant staff via email, phone, or text after one or two consecutive hourly readings¹ of Levels 3, 4, or 5. The principal or designee may also postpone or cancel activities due to the anticipation of poor air quality at his or her discretion.

3. Upon receipt of the RAAN notification from the Valley Air District, the school site principal and designated staff shall take action after one or two consecutive hourly readings at Levels 3, 4, and 5 as outlined in the following sections.

Procedures for Level 3 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups)**1. Physical Education and Recess**

Sensitive individuals (i.e. students with asthma, respirators or heart/lung conditions) should remain inside or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.

2. Athletic Practice and Training

Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.

3. Scheduled Athletic Events

Increase rest breaks and substitutions. Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.

Procedures for Level 4 (Unhealthy)**1. Physical Education and Recess**

Exercise indoors or limit vigorous outdoor activities to a maximum of 15 minutes. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.

2. Athletic Practice and Training

Exercise indoors or reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.

3. Scheduled Athletic Events

¹ The Valley Air District recognizes the unique challenges and constraints specific to each school district. Some are able to cancel or modify activities immediately, while others are not. We encourage districts to adopt the most health-protective procedures possible that are feasible and reasonable given their particular circumstances.

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Increase rest breaks and substitutions. Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.

Procedures for Level 5 (Very Unhealthy)**1. Physical Education and Recess**

No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.

2. Athletic Practice and Training

No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.

3. Scheduled Athletic Events

Event must be rescheduled or relocated.

Extraordinary Episodes

1. In the event of an exceptional air pollution event beyond Level 5, the Valley Air District may issue an “Air Alert”, “Health Cautionary Statement”, “Health Advisory”, or “National Weather Service Air Quality Alert” to local media indicating the level of emergency.

2. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for notifying schools of such extraordinary circumstances. Transmission of the notification to schools may be accomplished through the same procedures approved by the Superintendent's office for response to disasters of all types.

3. Students and staff should remain indoors, cease all but minimally necessary physical activity, and await emergency response directions.

Other References:

[1] RAAN User Guide, “Using the Real-Time Air Advisory Network” (2014). San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm