Severe Cold Response Plans

Wind Chill Warning
Schools will be closed under the condition of a wind chill warning. A wind chill warning indicates that life-threatening conditions and a risk to safety exists. Measures should be taken to safeguard life and property immediately. A wind chill warning is typically issued when the wind chill will be –30 degrees Fahrenheit or colder OR the actual air temperature is –15°F.

Wind Chill Advisory
A wind chill advisory is issued when conditions do not meet the wind chill warning criteria but still cause significant inconvenience. The weather during a wind chill advisory is not life threatening but presents conditions that may result in inconveniences or pose moderate risk to safety. A wind chill advisory is typically issued when the wind chill is –20 degrees Fahrenheit or colder.

Severe Cold School Closure: Wind Chill Warning
- Classes will be cancelled and school closure protocols will be instituted
- All notification systems will be leveraged to send school cancellation communications to families
- Extracurricular activities will be suspended while the wind chill warning is in effect

Severe Cold Action: Wind Chill Advisory
- Schools will be open and student attendance is expected
- When safety allows, buses will pick up all student walkers regardless of route assignment
- Fire and Police will be notified prior to the start of the school day of the Severe Cold Action designation
- School administrators will be given authority to keep students in the building in the event of a fire alarm and will relocate students to a safe location within the building; in the event of an evacuation, administrators will institute parallel evacuation protocols to return students to a safe interior location
- Extracurricular activities will be evaluated and may be suspended if conditions persist; updates will be posted on each school’s website
- All off-campus activities will be suspended (this includes but is not limited to: all off-site daytime programs, field trips, and work programs)
- Scheduled student transports between buildings will be assessed
- All outside student activities will be suspended
- All lab-based activities that have potential to cause fire or smoke alarm activation will be reevaluated or rescheduled; communication and coordination with the impacted departments will be conducted by building administration
- Students will be allowed to keep outerwear with them while in the building
- Schools will make announcements to provide access to donated outerwear to all students

NOTE: The National Weather Service (NWS) will be the meteorological source to determine and declare a wind chill warning or wind chill advisory. http://www.weather.gov/

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