

**Bradley Elementary School District #61
Weather Related Procedures**

Heat Related Guidelines

The health and safety of children are of paramount importance to local school superintendents. Section 18-12, the School Code allows the use of interrupted School Days for "adverse weather conditions." As a reminder, with regard to extreme heat, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) allows for four options:

1. Amend the public school calendar to start school at a later date
2. Dismiss after 5-clock hours of instruction
 1. Instructional time is maximized
 2. Advance notice will be provided to allow parents to arrange for childcare
 3. School day does not have to be made up
3. Utilize an Emergency Day (no school for the entire district)
 1. Advance notice will be provided
 2. School day must be made up
4. Utilize an Interrupted Day (school may be dismissed after a minimum of one clock hour of instruction)
 1. Advance notice may be given to allow parents to arrange for childcare

Criteria for Early Dismissal - Heat

The district refers to the NOAA National Weather Service's Heat Index Chart, which provides information about the likelihood of heat disorders due to prolonged exposure to high temperatures and humidity. If the forecasts call for the outdoor heat index to be at the "danger" level or higher, this triggers a decision to either shorten the school day, or close school. When the outdoor heat index is at this level, our indoor classrooms generally have even higher heat indexes.

Communication of Early Dismissal

The district is aware that it is difficult for families when changes are made to the school day on short notice. However, the health and safety of the children must come first.

BESD61 will make every effort to make a decision and announce a heat related dismissal the night before; however, parents, students, and staff will be notified as soon as possible in the event an early dismissal is necessary due to the heat index. Notification will be made via phone call system, email, and District Facebook and website pages.

Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities

If school is not in session, all athletic and extra-curricular activities and events, including practices, may be cancelled. The only exception involves clubs or teams participating in post-season events.

Preschool

Preschool will remain in session for a full day on heat days, and PM pre-school will be in session as well.

Staff Members

In the event school is dismissed early due to the heat index, all staff members are expected to work a full contractual day, but are encouraged to locate a cool place within the building to work.

Building Plans for Heat

- Keep shades closed on the side of the building receiving the most sunlight.
- Keep overhead lights to a minimum if possible.
- Turn off any electronic equipment that is not in use.
- Rooms that have window air conditioning units can be kept on overnight on the low setting.
- Students will be allowed to bring water bottles to remain properly hydrated throughout the day.