



# news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Ebony Pugh (412) 475-1523

## **Superintendent Wayne N. Walters Announces New Extreme Heat Protocol for Schools without Air Conditioning**

PITTSBURGH, May 30, 2023 – Today, Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, EdD, announced a new Extreme Heat Protocol for schools without sufficient air conditioning systems. The protocol will guide decisions regarding heat-related building closures and other actions while increasing transparency for staff and families related to the District’s decision-making process.

“Caring for the health, safety, and wellness of our students and staff is multi-faceted, and that is why I have identified the development of safety, health, and wellness protocols as one of five priority goals,” said Dr. Walters. “As we enter the summer months, it was important to establish an extreme heat protocol for our facilities without sufficient air conditioning systems to elevate transparency in our decision-making process and help families and staff plan should there be a need to shift instruction virtually.”

Currently, 41 District facilities lack sufficient air conditioning. With the forecast for extreme heat this upcoming Thursday and Friday and to prevent heat-related illnesses resulting from exposure to excessive heat, the District will implement a new Extreme Heat Protocol. As part of the protocol, when outside temperatures are forecasted for one or more days to exceed 85°F and/or a heat index of 90°F or higher (National Weather Service), the District will monitor the temperatures inside each school facility to inform decisions to protect the health and safety of students and staff. The District will determine if a temporary shift to remote learning or other action is necessary. The Superintendent has committed to making the decision as early as possible to minimize last-minute disruptions for students, families, and staff.

The message below was sent to all families via the District’s parent notification system:

*The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Exposure to excessive heat can cause heat-related illness. Therefore, when outside temperatures are forecasted for one or more days to exceed 85 °F and/or a heat index of 90 °F or higher according to the National Weather Service, the District will monitor the temperatures inside our buildings that do not have sufficient air conditioning systems to inform decisions to protect the health and safety of students and staff. These decisions may include a temporary shift to remote learning or other*



# news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

*actions. The District will decide and communicate as early as possible to minimize last-minute disruptions for students, families, and staff. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the parent hotline 412-529-HELP that's 412-529-4857.*

**###**