

SLSD Extreme Weather Protocol 2024 / 25 School Year

Extreme COLD / SNOW Protocol

How cold is too cold? The National Weather Service weather forecast offices routinely issue two types of alerts to warn people about dangerously low wind chill temperatures.

- A Wind Chill **Advisory** is issued when wind chill temperatures are potentially hazardous.
- A Wind Chill **Warning** is issued when wind chill temperatures are life threatening.

However, temperature criteria for an advisory or warning can vary from state to state to reflect regional climate differences. For example, weather forecasters in Grand Forks, N.D., issue a wind chill advisory when the wind chill is -25°F or lower for more than one hour, while a wind chill of +35°F for at least three hours will trigger a wind chill advisory in Miami, Florida.

Ohio guidelines: According to the [Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness](#), a **Wind Chill Advisory** is issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be 10-24 degrees below zero (20-29 degrees below zero in extreme northwest Ohio). **Wind Chill Warnings** are issued for dangerous, life-threatening wind chills -25°F or colder (-30°F in extreme northwest Ohio). Additionally, a **Wind Chill Watch** may be issued between 12 and 48 hours before a weather event when there is a potential for dangerous wind chill values.

***In Ohio, there is no statewide formula to determine if classes will be cancelled.** Each school district makes an independent decision based on their circumstances, including the number of students that walk to school, HVAC equipment / condition (are they able to keep up with the heat load of the building when the outside temps are super low), etc.

***For our purposes, delays & cancellations will be made in best interest of student safety.** We do realize that parents are in a better position to secure care – when given as much advance notice as possible. We prefer to delay when / where possible, but often, the temps during cold winter months don't change much between say 8 and 10AM.



NWS Windchill Chart

