

MEMORANDUM

September 12, 2024

Action Required - ANNUAL



Office of District Operations
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

TO: All Principals and Directors
FROM: Dana E. Edwards, Chief of District Operations
SUBJECT: *Inclement Weather and Emergency School System Closures*

Summary

The safety of our Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) community is critical and being able to communicate with students, staff, and families during severe weather or other emergencies is of the utmost importance. Sometimes a change in operational status for the school system is necessary due to severe weather or other emergencies. The [operating status options](#) for the 2024-2025 school year include:

- Code Green - Normal Operations
- Code Yellow - Delayed Opening
- Code Blue - Early Dismissal
- Code Orange - Schools Closed/Offices Telework
- Code Red - School System Closed

Background

MCPS is prepared to address weather-related concerns including snow, ice, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, excessive heat, and other emergencies that may require a change in operational status for schools and offices. The MCPS Inclement Weather Team tracks weather patterns and traffic conditions, as well as benchmarks with surrounding districts and county agencies to make recommendations to the Superintendent related to the district's operating status. Once a decision has been made by the superintendent based on research, analysis, and recommendations from the team, that decision is communicated to staff, students, and families.

Actions

- Share this language via all appropriate communication channels with students, staff, and families next week (school website, Remind, Connect-Ed, newsletters, weekly updates, etc.): **The safety of our MCPS community is critical, and being able to communicate with students, staff, and families during severe weather or other emergencies is of the utmost importance. Use this [link](#) to find all the ways you can connect with MCPS to receive emergency operational information from the school system. The current operating status options for the school district appear on the MCPS website and on individual school websites. In the event of a change in operational status, this [link](#) will provide more information about the MCPS Operating Status options.**
- Share the weather-related safety information below with staff, students, and families as appropriate.
- Please see the [June 13, 2024 memo](#) for reminders about the MSDE updates for virtual education for severe weather for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Conduct the required weather-related emergency drills to ensure emergency preparedness for students and staff.
- Activate your on-site emergency team (OSET) to assist with safety measures during a severe weather response and remain alert to worsening conditions as severe weather information and updates are shared.

Links/Additional Information

- [Alert Montgomery - register to receive text, email, or voice message emergency alerts to your cell phone](#)
- [Hurricane Safety Information](#)
- [Tornado Safety Information](#)
- [Tornado Warning Procedures for Buses](#)
- [Earthquake Safety Information](#)
- [Hurricane and Summer Storm Tips - Montgomery County, MD](#)
- [NOAA Prediction for Above-Normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season](#)

Questions

For questions, please contact Ms. Catherine E. Malchodi, executive director, Office of District Operations at 240-740-6245 or [via email](#).