

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM AND TORNADO PROCEDURES

Definition of Terms

The following terms are defined using information provided by the National Weather Service.

Severe Thunderstorm: A storm capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Severe thunderstorms are possible in the watch area within a period of several hours.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible in the watch area within a period of several hours.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been spotted or indicated on radar and that the tornado is likely to strike in a designated area. There is imminent danger to life and property.

Procedures

When a tornado watch or a tornado warning has been received:

1. The superintendent or designee shall notify district administrators.
2. Upon being notified of a tornado warning, the principal or designated staff member must monitor weather conditions to determine if it is necessary to move students into the best available refuge areas.

Principals or designated staff members do not have to wait for a district "weather alert" before moving students into the best available refuge areas. If the principal or designated staff member deems it advisable to move students into the best available refuge areas, this should be done immediately.

Students should not be on playgrounds or outdoor areas during a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning.

Each principal or designated staff member will use best judgment as to when students should leave the best available refuge areas and return to the classrooms.

The following table further outlines district procedures.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM AND TORNADO PROCEDURES (Cont.)

Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Procedures Table

The public will be notified using the systems listed in CKAC-P1 Emergency Notification Procedures. Absent such announcements, the public should assume that school will be in session or no changes have been made.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Only out-of-school trips may be canceled.

Activity	Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Tornado Watch	Tornado Warning	Tornado Sirens Sound	All Clear Issued by City of Perry
School Day Canceled	An entire school day will not be canceled due to thunderstorms or tornado watches or warnings.				
School Dismissed Early	District Decision	District Decision	No	No	NA
After-School Activities	After-school activities may be canceled at the district's or school's discretion.				
After-School Child Care Canceled	District Decision	District Decision	No	No	NA
Students Moved to Best Available Refuge Areas	School Decision	School Decision	School Decision	Yes	School Decision
Adult Pickup of Child (excused absence) ¹	District Decision	Yes (unless in best available refuge areas)	Yes (unless in best available refuge areas)	No	Yes (unless in best available refuge areas)
Checkout of Students Who Drive (excused absence) ²	District Decision	Yes (unless in best available refuge areas)	No	No	Yes (unless in best available refuge areas)
Bus Routes Delayed, Diverted, or Canceled	District Decision	District Decision	District Decision	Divert to Safest Open School ³	Case-by-case
Out-of-School Trips	Out-of-school trips may be canceled at the district's or school's discretion.				

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM AND TORNADO PROCEDURES (Cont.)Footnotes

1. Adult Pickup of Child

- After a district decision to excuse absences due to weather concerns, students picked up will be recorded as either an excused absence or an excused early release depending on the time of pickup.
- Due to capacity and safety concerns for students and district staff, adults (and others in their party) who arrive at a school after students and district staff have been placed in best available refuge areas may not be served by staff. Adults (and others in their party) may have to wait in a designated area of the building, which may not be an area of refuge, until an all clear has been issued.
- Only adults who have been previously approved by the school to pick up a particular student will be allowed to pick up that student.
- District policy GK-Use of School Property states:
 - A. School district facilities will not serve as an emergency shelter for patrons.
 - B. Patrons will not be allowed to bring animals, other than service animals, into the school buildings during weather emergencies.

2. Release of Students Who Drive

- Parents/guardians can contact the school to check out students who drive.
- Students aged 18 or older may check themselves out of school.
- Students will not be allowed to leave during a tornado warning or after being placed in an area of refuge.

3. Buses Diverted to Safest Open School (Tornado Sirens sounded)

- Due to concerns for all students' safety, buses will not stop at regular bus stops, even if parents/guardians are present.
- Buses will divert to the safest open school as determined by the superintendent or designee.
- In the event of a communications failure between the bus driver and the district, the bus driver will use individual best judgment to find the safest location.

CROSS-REFERENCE: **CKAC-P1, Emergency Notification Procedures**
 GK, Use of School Property