

Section E

Support Services

EBBD

Temperature Standards for Schools

Maine law requires school boards to adopt and implement a policy establishing standards for minimum and maximum temperatures for school buildings.

The Board believes that the optimal environment (“comfort zone”) for teaching and learning is between a minimum of 65 degrees and a maximum of 78 degrees and adopts this as the “temperature standard” for the school.

When temperatures in the building as a whole or in classrooms or other occupied spaces exceed the maximum comfort zone by 5 degrees, schools are expected to take practicable measures to relieve heat discomfort, such as (but not limited to):

- Pulling down shades or blinds
- Using fans and/or opening doors within the building to improve air circulation
- Turning off heat-producing electronics and equipment
- Having water readily available to students and staff
- Allowing students and staff to bring battery operated personal fans to school
- If an individual classroom is affected, allowing teachers to move students to a cooler area of the building (e.g., air-conditioned library or space on shaded side of the building) or, if feasible, to move students to a cooler “outside classroom” for continued instruction
- On days of extreme heat, considering rescheduling tests/exams to another day to enable more effective demonstration and evaluation of student performance

This does not preclude building administrators from acting preemptively in anticipation of a rise in building/classroom temperature to the point that will require action to be taken.

On cold days, when building and classroom temperatures hover near the minimum, schools are encouraged to incorporate more opportunities for physical activity during class time and may consider having extra layers of clothing available.

Families should ensure that their students are dressed appropriately for expected weather conditions.

Building administrators will be responsible for implementation of this policy, including identifying and planning for measures that are feasible in the school.

This policy will be posted/made accessible to the public on the school’s website.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001(23)

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