



RESOLUTION NO.: 2026.068

EXTREME WEATHER SAFETY PROTOCOL

SB 1248 - EC§33355

Purpose

Great Valley Academy is committed to protecting the health and safety of students and staff during extreme weather conditions, in accordance with California Education Code §33355 (SB 1248, “Yahushua’s Law”). This protocol establishes clear, school-wide procedures for monitoring weather, modifying or canceling outdoor physical activities, communicating with families, and maintaining consistent safety practices across both campuses. It incorporates the standardized guidelines compiled by the California Department of Education (CDE) and reflects guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the National Weather Service (NWS).

Scope

This protocol applies to all outdoor activities at both Great Valley Academy campuses, including physical education classes, recess and lunch periods, outdoor classroom instruction, SMARTtime and Expanded Learning (ELOP) programs, field trips, and school-sponsored outdoor events. In accordance with EC §33355(d), interscholastic athletic programs administered by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), including associated practices and games, follow the established CIF heat-illness guidelines rather than this protocol.

Definitions of Extreme Weather Conditions

Great Valley Academy recognizes the following extreme weather hazards. CDE/CDPH default thresholds are listed; Great Valley Academy may apply more protective actions when local conditions warrant.

Hazard	Primary Tool / Source	Default Threshold
Extreme Heat	CDPH Heat Risk Grid + NWS HeatRisk tool	Modify activity at HeatRisk ≥2 (Orange); cancel outdoor activity at ≥3 (Red/Magenta). See Section 5.
Poor Air Quality / Wildfire Smoke	AirNow.gov + Valley Air District	Reduce activity at AQI ≥101 (USG); suspend outdoor activity at AQI ≥151. See Section 6.
High Winds	NWS Wind Advisories	Limit outdoor activity during a Wind Advisory (≥31 mph sustained or ≥46 mph gusts); cancel at Warning level.

Hazard	Primary Tool / Source	Default Threshold
Flooding / Standing Water	NWS Flood Safety + County OES	Cancel outdoor activity when a NWS Flash Flood Watch or Warning is issued for Stanislaus County.
Lightning / Thunderstorm	NWS Lightning Safety (30–10 Rule)	Suspend outdoor activity when thunder is heard or lightning seen within 6 miles; resume 30 minutes after the last thunder.
Extreme Cold	NWS Cold Weather Safety	Modify outdoor activity below 40°F with wind chill; cancel when a NWS Wind Chill Warning is issued.

Weather Monitoring Procedures

- A site administrator or designee at each campus completes a morning weather and air-quality check before the start of the school day, and again at midday during heat season (May–October).
- Staff supervising outdoor activities monitor conditions in real time; SMARTtime and ELOP staff monitor conditions before and during their programs.
- Great Valley Academy subscribes to and monitors NWS alerts and Valley Air District advisories for Stanislaus County.

Designated Weather Monitor (each campus): Site Administrator or designee

Backup Monitor: Office Manager / Athletic or Activities Coordinator

Monitoring tools used: NWS Heat Risk (wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heat_risk), AirNow.gov, Valley Air District alerts (valleyair.org), and local NWS Sacramento alerts.

If a weather event develops during the school day, the site administrator and designated monitor immediately assess conditions and modify, relocate, delay, or cancel outdoor activities as needed. Staff, students, and families are notified through the GVA’s communication channels, and students are moved indoors or to designated safe areas when conditions pose a health or safety risk.

Heat Risk Thresholds — CDPH Heat Risk Grid

Risk levels below follow the CDPH Heat Risk Grid adopted by CDE. The “Campus Response” column specifies Great Valley Academy’s actions.

Risk Level	Score	Physical Activity Guidance	Campus Response
Little / None	Green (0)	No restrictions; normal outdoor activity permitted.	Normal outdoor activities. Ensure water is available.
Minor	Yellow (1)	Increase hydration; limit direct sun; move to shade.	Normal activities; encourage water breaks. Shaded/indoor options for heat-sensitive students.

Risk Level	Score	Physical Activity Guidance	Campus Response
Moderate	Orange (2)	Reduce strenuous activity; mandatory shade; reschedule to cooler times.	Reduce vigorous PE; add water breaks (every 15 min); shorten outdoor time; shade/indoor options for sensitive students.
Major	Red (3)	Cancel outdoor activities 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; move PE/recess indoors.	No vigorous outdoor activity; PE and recess held indoors; outdoor time minimized.
Extreme	Magenta (4)	Cancel ALL outdoor activities for the entire day.	All outdoor activities canceled; recess, lunch, and PE held indoors in cooled spaces.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Thresholds

AQI Range	Category	Outdoor Activity Guidance
0–50	Good	Normal outdoor activities permitted.
51–100	Moderate	Normal activities; staff monitor students with asthma or respiratory conditions.
101–150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	Reduce prolonged/strenuous outdoor exertion for all; sensitive students move indoors. Increase inhaler-access readiness.
151–200	Unhealthy	Move activities indoors; recess shortened or held indoors; outdoor PE moved indoors.
201–300	Very Unhealthy	Cancel all outdoor activities; students remain indoors.
301+	Hazardous	No outdoor exposure; all students kept indoors; families notified; consider school closure.

Additional Weather Hazards

High Winds

- Wind Advisory (≥ 31 mph sustained / ≥ 46 mph gusts): limit outdoor activity; secure loose equipment; monitor for falling debris.
- High Wind Warning: cancel outdoor activities and move students indoors.

Flooding / Standing Water

- Cancel outdoor activity when a NWS Flash Flood Watch or Warning is issued for Stanislaus County; keep students clear of standing water and drainage areas.

Lightning / Thunderstorm

- Apply the NWS 30–10 Rule: suspend outdoor activity when thunder is heard or lightning seen within 6 miles; move indoors; resume only 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning.

Extreme Cold

- Modify outdoor activity below 40°F with wind chill (ensure adequate clothing, shorten exposure); cancel outdoor activity when a NWS Wind Chill Warning is issued.

Decision-Making Authority & Timelines

Trigger	Who Makes the Call	Family Notification Required?
Heat Yellow (1) / Orange (2)	Site Administrator or designee	No (staff notified as needed)
Heat Red (3)	Site Administrator or designee	Yes
Heat Magenta (4)	Site Administrator or Superintendent/designee	Yes
AQI 101–150	Site Administrator or designee	Notify affected/sensitive groups
AQI 151+	Site Administrator or Superintendent/designee	Yes
High Wind, Flood, or Lightning	Site Administrator or designee	Yes, if activities canceled
Early site closure	Superintendent or designee	Yes

Decisions are made as soon as unsafe conditions are identified — before the start of the school day where forecasts allow, or immediately upon a mid-day change in conditions.

Criteria for Modifying or Canceling Outdoor Activities

Modifications (Heat Orange / AQI 101–150)

- Move outdoor activity to before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m. where feasible.
- Provide mandatory shade access and increase water breaks (minimum every 15 minutes).
- Reduce the duration and intensity of strenuous outdoor activity.
- Offer indoor alternatives to high-risk students (asthma, cardiac conditions, heat sensitivity).

Full Cancellation (Heat Red/Magenta, AQI 151+)

- All outdoor PE and recess moved indoors or canceled; supervised indoor alternatives provided.
- All SMARTtime outdoor activities postponed or canceled.
- Students remain in air-conditioned or mechanically cooled spaces.

Students with IEP / 504 Plans or Medical Conditions

Students with IEPs, Section 504 plans, asthma, respiratory or cardiac conditions, diabetes, obesity, heat sensitivity, or medications that impair thermoregulation receive individualized accommodations. These may include modified participation, additional hydration and cooling breaks, priority access to cooled indoor spaces, storage of rescue medications (inhalers/insulin) in climate-controlled locations, nurse or staff monitoring, and visual aids for non-verbal students to signal distress. Staff coordinate with families and health staff as determined by the student's health plan, IEP, or 504 plan.

Indoor Alternative Activities

During extreme weather, activities relocate to available cooled or sheltered indoor spaces. Site administrators identify appropriate locations based on capacity, supervision, and safety. Priority access is given to students with medical conditions or heightened vulnerability.

Indoor Space	Campus	A/C Available?
Classrooms	GVA – Modesto	Yes
Multipurpose Room	GVA – Modesto	Yes
Classrooms	GVA – Salida	Yes
Multipurpose Room	GVA – Salida	Yes

Capacities to be confirmed by each site per fire-code occupancy limits.

Approved Indoor Alternatives

- Yoga, stretching, and mindfulness movement breaks
- Video-guided dance / movement breaks
- Indoor games in the Multipurpose Room (e.g., floor hockey, volleyball, badminton)
- Brain breaks and low-exertion fitness circuits
- Educational enrichment (STEM activities, reading)

Communication Protocols

Internal (Staff)

- Real-time updates issued if conditions change during the day; PE staff, coaches, and SMARTtime/ELOP staff notified before restrictions take effect.
- Backup method: direct phone call.

Families / Guardians

- Families may be notified through ParentSquare when outdoor activities are significantly modified, heat/air-quality restrictions are in effect, or field trips and events are altered.
- Emergency communication: families are contacted immediately if their student shows signs of heat illness; 911 is called for any severe symptoms.

Staff Training Requirements

All staff complete annual training in compliance with SB 1248. Required topics include:

- Recognizing signs and symptoms of heat illness (cramps, exhaustion, heat stroke), cold stress, and respiratory distress from poor air quality
- First-aid response for weather-related illness, including when to call 911
- Campus weather protocol procedures and the decision-making chain
- Use of monitoring tools (NWS Heat Risk, Air Now, Valley Air District alerts)
- Emergency communication procedures

Audience	Frequency	Responsible Party
New staff onboarding	At hire	HR / Site Administration
All-staff refresher	Annually (fall)	HR / Site Administration
PE teachers, coaches, ELOP staff	Annually	Site Administration
Health/office staff (clinical response)	Annually	School Nurse / Health Aide
Administrators / decision-makers	Annually	Superintendent or designee

Roles and Responsibilities

- Superintendent / Site Administrator: oversees implementation, makes final decisions on activity modifications, and ensures staff training and compliance.
- Teachers / Support Staff: monitor students for signs of heat or weather-related stress, follow modification guidelines, and ensure hydration and shade/indoor access.
- Office Staff: support family communication and maintain emergency-contact readiness.
- ELOP / SMARTtime Staff: follow the same thresholds and procedures and document weather-related incidents.

Documentation & Recordkeeping

Great Valley Academy maintains records of activity modifications and cancellations, incident reports for heat- or weather-related concerns, and annual staff-training records. These records support the annual review required under EC §33355(b)(3).

Coordination with Local Agencies

Agency	Role / Purpose	Contact
National Weather Service – Sacramento (STO)	Weather alerts & forecasts	weather.gov/sto
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District — Northern Region (Modesto)	AQI alerts, wildfire-smoke advisories	4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356 · (209) 557-6400 · valleyair.org
Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services	Emergency guidance & coordination	3705 Oakdale Rd, Modesto, CA 95357 · (209) 552-3600 · oes.stancounty.gov
Local Fire / EMS (911)	Emergency medical response	911 for emergencies

Annual Review & Update Log

EC §33355(b)(3) requires annual review. Each review documents best practices, weather-pattern changes, and stakeholder feedback.

Review Year	Review Date	Reviewed By (Title)	Changes?	Board Approved
2025–2026		Site Admin / Superintendent — Creation of document		
2026–2027			Yes / No	
2027–2028			Yes / No	
2028–2029			Yes / No	
2029–2030			Yes / No	

Stakeholder Feedback Process

- Survey distributed to parents/guardians
- Staff input solicited

Revision History

Version	Date	Changes	Approved
1.0		Initial adoption	

Board Adoption & Certification

We certify that this Extreme Weather Safety Protocol has been developed in accordance with California Education Code Section 33355 (SB 1248 – Yahushua’s Law), incorporates the CDE standardized guidelines, and has been adopted by the governing board of Great Valley Academy.

Date Approved:

Signature, President or Secretary

Board Action:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: