



PUENTE CHARTER SCHOOL

Extreme Weather Safety Protocol

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Authority: California Education Code §33355

Responsible Administrator: Chief Executive Officer / Designee (VP of Finance & Administration; Principal)

Review Cycle: Annually

I. Purpose

PUENTE Charter School is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students and to protecting students from health and safety risks associated with extreme weather and hazardous environmental conditions.

This Extreme Weather Safety Protocol establishes the procedures PUENTE will use to monitor weather and environmental conditions, determine when outdoor physical activities should be modified or discontinued, communicate operational changes, provide safe indoor alternatives, prepare staff to recognize weather-related distress, and coordinate with relevant agencies and experts.

This protocol incorporates the California Department of Education's standardized guidelines developed pursuant to California Education Code §33355.

II. Scope

This protocol applies to PUENTE Charter School students and staff participating in school-sponsored outdoor physical activities, including physical education, recess, outdoor learning, athletics, field activities, and other activities involving significant outdoor exposure.

The protocol applies to extreme heat, excessive precipitation, flooding, poor air quality and wildfire smoke, and other hazardous environmental or weather conditions that may affect student safety.

Nothing in this protocol limits PUENTE's authority to take additional protective measures when conditions warrant.



III. Definition of Extreme Weather Conditions

For purposes of this protocol, extreme weather conditions include environmental conditions that may create a significant risk to student health or safety, including:

- Extreme heat or elevated heat-risk conditions
- Excessive precipitation or significant rainfall
- Flooding or conditions creating a risk of flooding
- Severe thunderstorms or lightning
- High winds or other severe weather
- Poor air quality, including wildfire smoke
- Other hazardous environmental conditions identified through reliable weather, air-quality, public health, or emergency-management information

In determining whether conditions warrant modification or cessation of outdoor activities, PUENTE will consider:

- Student age and developmental needs
- Duration and intensity of outdoor exposure
- Type and intensity of physical activity
- Current and forecasted weather conditions
- Heat-risk or other applicable index ratings
- Air-quality conditions
- Availability of shade, hydration, cooling, and appropriate indoor space
- Whether students are acclimatized to the conditions
- Individual student circumstances and identified vulnerabilities
- The ability to safely modify, relocate, shorten, reschedule, or discontinue the activity

IV. Weather and Environmental Monitoring

PUENTE will monitor weather and environmental conditions before and during periods when extreme weather may affect student activities.

The designated administrator or designee will monitor, as appropriate:

- National Weather Service forecasts and alerts
- California Department of Public Health resources
- California Department of Education guidance



- CalHeatScore
- National Weather Service HeatRisk
- Local air-quality information and the applicable Air Quality Index
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Local emergency-management information
- Other reliable governmental or public health resources

Monitoring will occur sufficiently in advance of anticipated conditions to allow PUENTE to make timely decisions regarding outdoor activities and communicate changes to staff, students, and parents or guardians.

During an active weather event, conditions will continue to be monitored and operational decisions will be adjusted as necessary.

V. Decision-Making Framework

PUENTE will use a **GREEN / YELLOW / RED operational framework** to translate weather and environmental conditions into appropriate actions.

The framework is intended to support consistent decision-making while allowing administrators to exercise reasonable judgment based on actual conditions at the school site.

GREEN — Campus Open / Normal Operations

Conditions do not present an elevated risk requiring modification of normal outdoor activities.

Actions may include:

- Normal school and activity schedules
- Continued monitoring of weather conditions
- Routine access to drinking water
- Normal use of available shade and other mitigation measures
- Staff awareness of changing conditions

YELLOW — Modified Operations

Conditions present an increased or emerging risk, or conditions warrant additional precautions.



Actions may include:

- Modifying or shortening outdoor activities
- Moving activities to shaded areas
- Increasing hydration and water breaks
- Reducing strenuous physical activity
- Relocating activities to cooler times of the day
- Canceling or modifying selected outdoor activities
- Increasing monitoring of students
- Deploying safety equipment and facilities resources as appropriate
- Communicating relevant changes to staff, students, and parents or guardians

RED — Cessation or Significant Modification of Outdoor Activities

Conditions present a significant health or safety concern requiring cessation, relocation, or substantial modification of outdoor activities.

Actions may include:

- Canceling outdoor physical activities
- Relocating activities indoors
- Keeping students in safe, appropriate indoor environments
- Increasing hydration and monitoring
- Communicating operational changes to staff, students, and parents or guardians
- Implementing additional emergency or continuity procedures when necessary

The RED designation does not, by itself, mean that the school is closed. Decisions regarding school closure, evacuation, or other significant operational changes will be made separately based on the nature and severity of the event.

VI. Extreme Heat

PUENTE will incorporate the California Department of Public Health HeatRisk framework identified in the California Department of Education's §33355 guidelines.

HeatRisk Level 0 — Green / Little to None

No elevated heat risk is expected.



PUENTE may conduct normal outdoor activities while maintaining routine hydration and supervision.

HeatRisk Level 1 — Yellow / Minor

Heat-sensitive students may experience increased risk.

PUENTE will consider:

- Increased hydration
- Increased access to shade
- Reduced time outdoors during the strongest sun
- Increased monitoring of students
- Modification of strenuous activity when appropriate

HeatRisk Level 2 — Orange / Moderate

Heat-sensitive or heat-vulnerable students face increased risk, and prolonged outdoor exposure may present risk to the general population.

PUENTE will consider:

- Reducing time outdoors
- Moving activities to cooler times of the day
- Reducing strenuous activity
- Increasing hydration and rest periods
- Providing access to shaded or cooled areas
- Relocating activities indoors when appropriate

HeatRisk Level 3 — Red / Major

This level represents a major risk, particularly for individuals who are active outdoors or who are heat-sensitive.

PUENTE will:

- **Cancel outdoor physical activities during the heat of the day, generally 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., consistent with CDE/CDPH guidance**
- Move activities to cooler portions of the day when feasible
- Provide safe indoor alternatives
- Maintain hydration and access to cooling



- Closely monitor students for signs of heat-related distress

HeatRisk Level 4 — Magenta / Extreme

This level represents an extreme risk to the entire population and generally occurs during prolonged, multi-day excessive heat events.

PUENTE will:

- **Cancel outdoor physical activities**
- Provide safe indoor alternatives
- Maintain access to hydration and cooling
- Closely monitor students
- Consider additional operational modifications when necessary to protect student and staff safety

The CDE guidelines specifically identify cancellation of outdoor activities for Major (Red) and Extreme (Magenta) heat-risk conditions, while allowing consideration of student age, exposure duration, activity level, and available mitigation measures.

VII. Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke

PUENTE will monitor local air-quality conditions when outdoor activities may be affected by wildfire smoke, ozone, particulate matter, or other pollutants.

When air quality is degraded, PUENTE will consider:

- The current Air Quality Index
- Forecasted air-quality conditions
- The intensity and duration of the planned activity
- The age and needs of students
- Indoor air quality and filtration
- The availability of cleaner indoor environments
- Guidance from the local air-quality management district and public health agencies

Outdoor activities may be modified, relocated indoors, shortened, or canceled when air-quality conditions present a health or safety concern.



When outdoor activities are moved indoors because of poor air quality, PUENTE will consider whether the indoor environment provides cleaner air than the outdoor environment.

PUENTE will follow applicable public health and air-quality guidance regarding wildfire smoke and other hazardous air conditions.

CDE specifically recommends that LEAs incorporate air-quality conditions into their weather protocols and establish AQI-based procedures for modifying or discontinuing strenuous outdoor activities.

VIII. Rain, Flooding, Severe Storms, and High Winds

PUENTE will monitor precipitation forecasts, flood advisories and warnings, severe-weather alerts, lightning, wind conditions, and conditions on and around the school campus.

Outdoor activities will be modified, relocated, or canceled when conditions create a significant risk, including:

- Lightning or severe thunderstorms
- Standing water or unsafe walking surfaces
- Flooding or potential flooding
- Dangerous winds
- Falling branches or other debris hazards
- Reduced visibility
- Unsafe travel conditions
- Other conditions that make outdoor activity unsafe

During significant rain or flooding conditions, PUENTE may:

- Cancel outdoor activities
- Move activities indoors
- Restrict access to affected areas
- Deploy mats, cones, barriers, or other safety equipment
- Monitor known leak or water-intrusion areas
- Adjust arrival, dismissal, transportation, or other operations when necessary
- Communicate changes to families and staff



IX. Indoor and Alternative Activities

When outdoor physical activities are modified or canceled, PUENTE will provide safe indoor or alternative activities whenever feasible.

Possible alternatives include:

- Indoor physical education activities
- Movement and fitness activities appropriate for the indoor environment
- Classroom-based physical activity
- Stretching, mobility, and wellness activities
- Health and wellness instruction
- Indoor enrichment activities
- Academic or project-based activities
- Other developmentally appropriate activities determined by program staff

Activities will be selected based on student age, available space, staffing, physical safety, and the nature of the weather condition.

X. Mitigation Measures and Site Preparedness

PUENTE will maintain appropriate resources and procedures to reduce weather-related risks.

Depending on conditions, mitigation measures may include:

- Drinking water and hydration access
- Shaded areas
- Indoor cooling areas
- Fans or other appropriate cooling equipment
- Air filtration and air-quality mitigation measures
- Weather-appropriate student supervision
- Mats and hazard cones for wet or slippery areas
- Temporary restriction of unsafe areas
- Flexible scheduling



- Rescheduling of outdoor activities
- Appropriate first-aid and emergency response resources

PUEENTE will seek to provide equitable access to reasonable mitigation measures for all students.

XI. Communication Protocols

When weather conditions require modification or cancellation of outdoor activities, PUEENTE will communicate relevant information in a timely manner to:

- Staff
- Students
- Parents and guardians

Communications will identify, as appropriate:

- The weather or environmental condition
- The activities affected
- The modification or cancellation
- The location of relocated activities
- Any actions expected of students or families
- Any additional operational information

Communication methods may include:

- Parent/family communication systems
- Email
- Text or messaging systems
- School announcements
- Staff communication channels
- The school website
- Other established PUEENTE communication methods

For significant operational changes, PUEENTE will use its established emergency and school-closure communication procedures.



XII. Staff Training

PUENTE will provide appropriate training and information to staff regarding extreme weather safety.

Training will address:

- PUENTE's Extreme Weather Safety Protocol
- The GREEN / YELLOW / RED decision-making framework
- Recognition of signs and symptoms of heat-related illness
- Recognition of weather-related distress
- Hydration and cooling procedures
- Appropriate supervision during modified outdoor activities
- Air-quality and wildfire-smoke precautions
- Severe weather and flooding precautions
- Procedures for moving students indoors
- Communication and escalation procedures
- Appropriate emergency response and first-aid procedures

Staff will be expected to promptly report concerns about student health or safety to the appropriate administrator and follow established emergency response procedures.

XIII. Decision-Making Responsibilities

The Chief Executive Officer, Principal, or designated administrator will have responsibility for determining appropriate operational responses under this protocol.

The administrator or designee will:

1. Review current and forecasted conditions.
2. Consult applicable governmental, public health, weather, and air-quality information.
3. Consider the age and needs of students and the nature and duration of planned activities.
4. Determine whether activities should continue, be modified, relocated, rescheduled, or canceled.
5. Communicate decisions to appropriate staff and families.
6. Continue monitoring conditions and modify the decision as circumstances change.
7. Document significant weather-related operational decisions when appropriate.



Staff members retain responsibility for immediately responding to an observed student safety concern and may discontinue or relocate an activity when an immediate safety concern exists, notifying the appropriate administrator as soon as practicable.

XIV. Coordination With Agencies and Experts

PUENTE will maintain access to relevant weather, environmental, public health, and emergency-management information.

As appropriate, PUENTE will coordinate with:

- California Department of Education
- California Department of Public Health
- National Weather Service
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Local air-quality management authorities
- Local emergency-management agencies
- Other governmental agencies, public health authorities, and qualified experts

PUENTE will use current guidance and information from these sources when evaluating extreme weather conditions and determining appropriate protective measures.

XV. Annual Review and Evaluation

This protocol will be reviewed and evaluated **at least annually**.

The annual review will consider:

- Changes in CDE or CDPH guidance
- Changes in weather patterns
- New weather or environmental risks
- Advances in safety practices
- Relevant public health information
- Weather-related incidents or near misses



- Staff experience and feedback
- Student and family feedback, when appropriate
- Effectiveness of mitigation measures
- Operational challenges encountered during the preceding year

The protocol will be updated when necessary to incorporate best practices, address emerging concerns or challenges, reflect changes in weather patterns, and incorporate advances in safety practices.

XVI. Related PUENTE Procedures

This protocol should be implemented in conjunction with applicable PUENTE policies and procedures, including:

- Comprehensive School Safety Plan
- Instructional Continuity Plan
- Emergency Operations Procedures
- School Closure and Communication Procedures
- Student Health and Emergency Response Procedures
- Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke Procedures
- Applicable facilities and campus safety procedures

Adopted: ____ June 10, 2026 ____

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Approved By: ____ PUENTE Board of Directors ____