

**Purpose:**

Under Section 108 (3) of the Education Act, the SSDEC is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff during periods of air pollution, particularly during wildfire smoke events. This policy outlines the procedures to be followed when air quality is affected by smoke or other pollutants.

**General Guidelines:**

**1. Air Quality Monitoring:**

- The school will monitor the *Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)* regularly. If the AQHI equals or exceeds 7, all outdoor activities will be suspended, and students will remain indoors.
- The AQHI for your location can be accessed through the *GNWT Environmental Health Air Quality Health Index* at [GNWT Air Quality Health Index](#).
- Parents and staff will be informed when air quality deteriorates significantly.

**2. Indoor Air Management:**

- Schools must keep windows and doors closed during air pollution events.
- HEPA filters or other air purification systems will be used in common areas, such as classrooms and gyms, to improve indoor air quality.
- Schools may designate certain areas as "clean air spaces" for students with respiratory conditions or heightened sensitivities.

**3. Student Safety During Recess and Outdoor Activities:**

- When the AQHI exceeds safe levels, outdoor physical activities, including recess, will be canceled or relocated indoors.
- Staff will ensure students with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma, have their medications easily accessible.

**4. Communication:**

- In severe cases, parents may be asked to pick up their children early to ensure their safety.

**5. Medical Exceptions:**

- Students requiring specific accommodations, such as asthma medication, should provide the school with a medical plan. Special arrangements, including permission to stay in designated areas, will be made for these students.

Reference: Education Act, s.108 (3)  
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