

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
Niagara Falls, New York

Regular Board meeting

July 31, 2025

RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICY 5685 MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR SCHOOL
BUILDINGS AND INDOOR FACILITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recently enacted, New York State Education Law Section 409-n requires all school districts to implement a policy regarding extreme heat conditions in schools and indoor facilities by September 1, 2025. The required policy has been drafted in accordance with the law and local board preference, and is attached hereto as Policy 5685 Maximum Temperature for School Buildings and Indoor Facilities. In accordance with the law, the attached policy addresses actions which the District will take to ensure the comfort, health, and safety of students, faculty, and staff on extreme heat condition days.

Part of the District's policy adoption process includes a thirty (30) day tabling of policy resolutions. At this time, a request is being sought to waive the thirty (30) day tabling to allow for timely compliance with the requirements of New York State Education Law Section 409-n.

This action item was prepared by Mr. Mark Laurie, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Maria A. Massaro, Administrator for Human Resources. The proposed resolution was reviewed by Mr. Angelo Massaro, School District Attorney.

Mr. Mark Laurie, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Maria A. Massaro, Administrator for Human Resources will answer questions pertaining to this action item.

RECOMMENDATION:

A motion is recommended for the approval of the following resolution: Resolution Adopting Policy 5685 Maximum Temperature for School Buildings and Indoor Facilities.

WHEREAS, Recently enacted, New York State Education Law Section 409-n requires all school districts to implement a policy regarding extreme heat conditions in schools and indoor facilities by September 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The following policy has been revised in accordance with the law and local Board preference:

Policy 5685 Maximum Temperature for School Buildings and Indoor Facilities.

WHEREAS: In accordance with the law, the attached policy addresses actions which the District will take to ensure the comfort, health, and safety of students, faculty, and staff on extreme heat condition days; and

WHEREAS, The Board has reviewed and endorsed the recommended policy; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby waives the thirty (30) day requirement for tabling of policies and approves and adopts Policy 5685 Maximum Temperature for School Buildings and Indoor Facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent is hereby directed to take steps to implement the policy as adopted.

SUBJECT: MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND INDOOR FACILITIES

The District is responsible for addressing the health, safety, and comfort of students and staff on extreme heat conditions days.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- a) Extreme heat condition days means days when occupiable educational and support services spaces are 82 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- b) Room temperature means the temperature measured at a shaded location, three feet above the floor near the center of the room.
- c) Support services spaces do not include kitchen areas used in the preparation of food for consumption by students.

Implementation Plan When the Temperature Reaches Eighty-Two Degrees Fahrenheit

The District is required to take action to relieve heat-related discomfort when the occupiable educational and support services spaces temperatures reach 82 degrees Fahrenheit. These actions may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Turning off the overhead lights;
- b) Pulling down shades or blinds;
- c) Turning on fans;
- d) Opening classroom doors and windows to increase circulation, if permitted;
- e) Turning off unused electronics that produce heat; and
- f) Providing water breaks.

Air conditioners, where available, may also be used to keep room temperatures from reaching 82 degrees Fahrenheit. The District may take the actions above earlier in the day or before school starts in an effort to keep the room temperature below 82 degrees Fahrenheit. This does not prohibit using air conditioning in response to a student's Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, or in response to a documented student medical need.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND INDOOR FACILITIES (Cont'd.)**Implementation Plan When the Temperature Reaches Eighty-Eight Degrees Fahrenheit**

The District will remove students and staff from educational and support services spaces when the room temperature reaches 88 degrees Fahrenheit where practicable. The Superintendent or designee may direct building principals to evacuate the space by:

- a) Moving students and staff to cooler spaces within the school building(s); or
- b) Closing school early and sending students and staff home according to the District's emergency school closing policy and/or procedure which include communicating with parents and persons in parental relation.

The Board will consider the anticipated number of extreme heat condition days when adopting or adjusting the District's school calendar. The District will also be mindful of collective bargaining agreements.

Education Law Section 409-n

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #3510 -- Emergency School Closings