

LOLO SCHOOL COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR WHEN STUDENTS SHOULD BE INSIDE OR OUTSIDE

The following information should help parents and students to understand when students may be allowed inside, especially during cold weather.

General rules, regardless of weather

1. Please make sure your students dress properly for the weather. If it's cold out, make sure they are wearing warm clothes. Remember – even if inside most of the day, we can end up outside for periods of time, including in emergency situations.
2. Students should not be dropped off at school prior to 8:00 am. The school is unable to provide supervision prior to 8:00 am.
3. With the exception of students participating in the breakfast program, students are not to be in the building until the first bell rings at 8:15 am.
4. After 7:45 am, students participating in the breakfast program may go to the cafeteria for breakfast. They are not to go anywhere else.

Severe weather – making the decision for kids to be inside or outside:

At what temperature or weather condition do we bring students inside? Unless parents provide a note regarding medical condition, students are expected to be outside unless the temperature (with or without wind) is at 0°F or there are severe, blizzard-like conditions. The superintendent and/or principals check our specific outside conditions as well as various weather websites when checking current temperatures and conditions. As we all know, weather conditions can change rapidly in Western Montana and in various areas of the Missoula valley, thus necessitating flexibility in such decision-making. As a general rule, in the opinion of the superintendent or principal, if the temperature with or without winds is in the range of 0°F, or if extremely poor visibility conditions are present, the administration will take actions to have all students come inside.

Students will continue to be outdoors briefly, even if below 0°F, to transition between buildings for specialist classes, to access the library and cafeteria, etc.

Who all comes inside?

With severe weather, we want to bring all kids inside in order to provide them with a safe environment. We do not have the supervision capabilities to allow kids both to be inside and outside.

How do students know to come inside?

School actions to inform students and parents may include emails, texts, phone calls, posting signs on entry windows, having outside staff announce it to students and parents as they drop off students and other helpful communication methods.

Rules for students being inside

Placing all of our students in the gymnasium or hallways and maintaining order can sometimes be a challenge. For that reason, students are expected to be on their best behavior.

1. As always, parents should not drop students off at school prior to 8:10 am.
2. After 8:10 am students must enter the building through the office and proceed directly to the assigned area, whether gymnasium, hallway or otherwise, being careful not to walk on the gym floor with snowy shoes.
3. Students in grades K-4 shall be in the upper gymnasium.
4. Students in grades 5-8 shall sit in the hallway of their building.
5. Student shall sit quietly until the bell rings for their classes. Students are not allowed to run or play on the floor or bleachers.
6. For morning/afternoon recesses, if Severe Cold Weather status is in effect, students will remain in their classrooms.
7. For lunch recess, if Severe Cold Weather status is in effect, students shall remain in their classrooms.

Students with medical conditions

It may be necessary for students with documented medical conditions to be inside during cold weather may be allowed to remain inside as follows:

1. Students must have a parent note explaining the reason why the student needs to be inside. Parents of students with long-term conditions should provide such medical condition information to the office.
2. Students with the appropriate note may come inside as early as 8:00 am and will report to the office.
3. Students with the appropriate note may stay inside during recesses and will report to the office.

Supervision

Morning: During Severe Cold Weather, staff members normally on morning outside duty on the playground shall be on duty in the gymnasium or hallways as assigned.

Noon Recess: During Severe Cold Weather, staff members normally on noon duty shall serve their duty in the classroom or as otherwise assigned.

Morning and afternoon recesses: During Severe Cold Weather, teachers and other staff members will continue to monitor their children inside the building. A para-professional normally assigned recess duty will also assist with supervision.