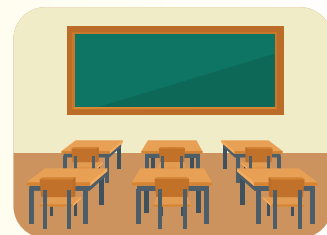


Temperature in Schools

Maintaining recommended ranges supports learning and comfort

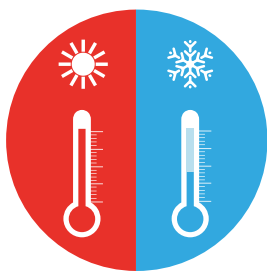
Temperature and Classroom Comfort

- Extreme temperatures can affect attention, behavior, comfort, and indoor air quality.
- Overheating can cause fatigue, discomfort, and reduced concentration.
- Cooler-than-recommended temperatures affect comfort and impact learning.
- Keeping classrooms within recommended ranges supports better learning experiences and academic outcomes.



Heating Season: October 1 - March 31

- New York State Property Maintenance Code (§ 602.4) requires that indoor occupied spaces be maintained at no less than 65°F.
- **Recommended Heating-Season Ranges** - measured using an Air Quality Sensor:
 - **Excellent:** 68°F – 72°F
 - **Good:** 65°F – 68°F, or 75°F – 80°F
 - **Needs Improvement:** Below 65°F or above 80°F



Cooling Season: April 1 - September 30

- New York State Property Maintenance Code (§ 602.4) requires that indoor occupied spaces be maintained at no less than 65°F.
- **Recommended Cooling-Season Ranges** - measured using an Air Quality Sensor:
 - **Excellent:** 68°F – 75°F
 - **Good:** 65°F – 68°F, or 75°F – 80°F
 - **Needs Improvement:** Below 65°F or above 80°F

Best Practices for Maintaining Comfortable Temperatures

Heating Season

- Increase the building's heat 1°F – 3°F early, before school starts, to maintain stable daylong temperatures.
- If using ceiling fans, rotate clockwise at low speed to create an updraft to circulate warm air.
- Use window blinds or shades to reduce heat loss and prevent cold drafts near windows.
- Keep radiators and air returns clear of any furniture and classroom supplies.
- Allow students to dress in layers or use flexible seating to move away from drafty areas.



Cooling Season

- Reduce heat by turning off lights and unused electronics.
- If using ceiling fans, set them to rotate counterclockwise to push air down.
- Encourage drinking fluids and schedule regular water breaks.
- Open classroom doors and windows to increase airflow when weather permits. Classroom doors that are fire doors should not be wedged open.
- Report areas that are constantly “too hot” or “too cold” to Facilities staff.
- Refer to the **Extreme Heat Conditions** infographic for more information.

New York State School Environmental Health Program

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