

## NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Michele Spurgeon Hartzell, Superintendent  
Mr. Brian Emick, Assistant to the Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Fox, Business Manager  
Mrs. Shelley Allen, Administrative Assistant

October 22, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians of North East School District Students,

We have had a great start to the school year and have shared a lot of Picker Pride to our Facebook page. We are also introducing the first issue of the Picker-Up! This newsletter highlights academics and activities in the North East School District. The Picker-Up was previously an internal weekly informational piece started several years ago to showcase our children, staff, academics, and activities. The articles will now be featured in a monthly newsletter written and edited by myself and typeset by Mr. Doug Bailey that include contributions from staff. Although many of the individual articles are already shared on our FB page each week, we wanted to provide another opportunity to share the great work and accomplishments by our students, teachers, staff, coaches, and volunteers. We have enclosed the first edition; future editions will be shared electronically on the district's website and official social media pages.

As we head into the winter season, we want to assure you that the school district takes the decision-making process to cancel or delay the start of school very seriously. The safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration when making this decision. Weather conditions throughout our district may vary greatly depending on where you live. If at any time you feel the weather conditions where you live are not safe for your child to attend school, please keep them at home. If you have a young driver, please speak to them regarding severe weather conditions and remember that bus transportation is available in lieu of driving in snow and ice.

In most instances we will begin with a "two-hour delay" and monitor the conditions very closely from that point. There are times when the decision can be made the night before, and when it is possible, this will occur. Rarely will a decision be made to send students home early from school once they are here. Our buildings are safe and supervised places. Once a decision is made, the district's Sapphire phone notification system will be activated.

**Please log in to the Sapphire parent portal and make sure your contact information is correct. Please contact your child's school if updates are needed.** Weather related messages will also be posted on the district's official website and official Facebook pages, as well as through local radio and television stations. The website will be our first place of notification.

**Please note that if we have no school or dismiss early due to inclement weather, the buildings will be closed to the public. All practices, games, events, after school and evening activities will be canceled.** There may also be times when school has been in session for the full day but evening activities must be canceled due to the weather. This information will be posted to the district website and official Facebook page, as well as through afternoon announcements to the students.

We ask for your patience as buses may be delayed due to weather conditions. Again, we will do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this letter or need any other assistance, please feel free to call your child's respective building administrators, my office directly at 725-8671, ext. 3906, or Mr. Brian Emick at 725-9671, ext. 3902.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent

## National Weather Service Makes Changes To Cold Temperature And Freeze Watches, Warnings, Advisories

A change to cold weather and freeze warnings and watches has been implemented by the National Weather Service (NWS) beginning this fall and winter in a continued effort to simplify communication.

- The changes are part of a multi-year simplification of alerts issued by the National Weather Service.
- Wind chill alerts will be consolidated into cold weather warnings, watches and advisories.
- Hard freeze watches and warnings have been eliminated, but that messaging will be provided in regular freeze alerts.

Wind chill watches, warnings and advisories have been eliminated. Instead, they have been consolidated into extreme cold watches, extreme cold warnings and cold weather advisories.

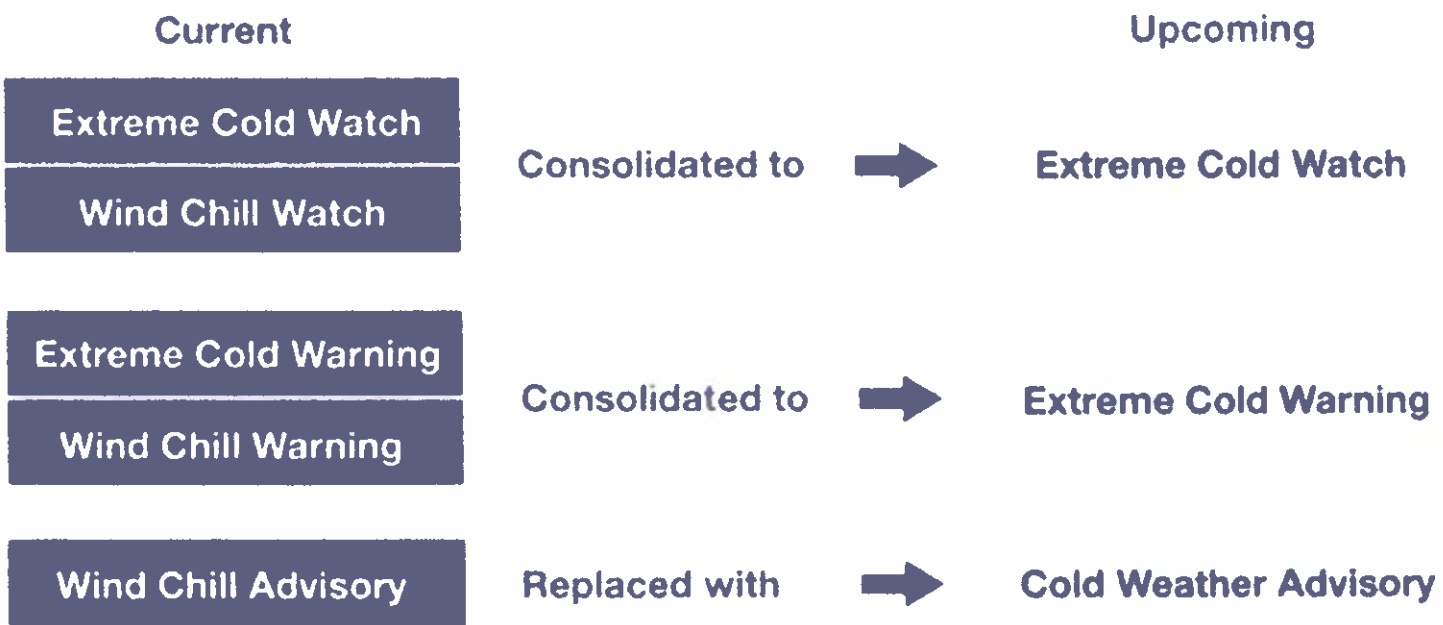
In addition to timing, those simplified alerts will state how cold wind chills will drop, which is information that was provided in the now-eliminated wind chill alerts.

The criteria for these cold alerts to be issued varies based on the region.

Extreme cold watches will be issued when either dangerously cold temperatures or wind chills are possible in a particular area. Warnings are then hoisted when those conditions are expected or are occurring, which means you [should dress in layers and cover exposed skin](#).

Cold weather advisories are issued in situations when an area is facing cold temperature or wind chills, but not to extreme levels, meaning you should still [dress appropriately and cover exposed skin](#).

### Extreme Cold Consolidation and Renaming



Hard freeze watches and warnings have been eliminated. The already existing freeze watches and warnings will take over and include hard freeze messaging when appropriate.

A freeze occurs when temperatures hit 32 degrees or colder. Most vegetation is destroyed when temperatures reach 28 degrees or colder, which is called a hard freeze, according to NOAA.

Freeze watches are issued when those conditions are possible and warnings are hoisted when those conditions are expected or ongoing.

Frost advisories will continue to be issued when frost could result resulting in minor damage to vegetation. That's because frost sometimes occurs at temperatures above freezing between 33 and 36 degrees, especially in more rural areas.

### **Extreme Cold Consolidation and Renaming**

1. Wind Chill Advisory will be renamed a Cold Weather Advisory
2. Wind Chill Watches > Extreme Cold Watch
3. Wind Chill Warnings > Extreme Cold Warning

**Extreme Cold Watch: Be Prepared.** An Extreme Cold Watch is issued when dangerously cold air temperatures or wind chill values are possible. As with a Warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Make sure your car has at least half a tank of gas, and update your winter survival kit.

**Extreme Cold Warning: Take Action!** An Extreme Cold Warning is issued when dangerously cold air temperatures or wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with an Extreme Cold Warning, avoid going outside. If you have to go outside, dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and make sure at least one other person knows your whereabouts. Update them when you arrive safely at your destination.