

# AIR POLLUTION POLICY

**PURPOSE** - WYIS believes it is important to consider the physical health of the students and staff. We recognize there can be man-made and natural factors that reduce the quality of the air and increase the risk for respiratory problems.

**RATIONALE** - Scientific evidence suggests that the biggest threat to health comes from particle pollution. Particle pollution, especially fine particles such as those found in smoke, haze, or dust, contain microscopic solid or liquid droplets that can imbed deep into the lungs causing serious health problems to the respiratory and circulatory systems. Children and teenagers are more susceptible to complications because their lungs are still developing and the volume of air inhaled per kilogram is greater than that of an adult. WYIS is committed to providing a safe environment for all of our students and staff. As such, we have a concrete policy to balance the health and well-being of our students with their need for physical activity and play time throughout the school day.

The following websites monitor and post hourly updates of the amount of Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and Particulate Matter of 2.5 micrograms (PM<sub>2.5</sub>): [www.cnemc.cn](http://www.cnemc.cn); [www.aqicn.info/?city=wuhan](http://www.aqicn.info/?city=wuhan). Based on this information, the city is given an index known as the Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI is used to determine how clean or polluted the air is, and the associated health effects. The higher the AQI, the higher the air pollution. The AQI is the standard that is used by WYIS to determine the quality and the safety of the environment for activities such as PE, recess, sporting events, and field trips.

**POLICY** - AQI levels will be monitored by the school each day, and staff are regularly alerted to the AQI. The following applies to all grades and subject areas:

COLOR	AQI	Air Pollution Level	Activity Modifications
GREEN	0-50	Good	No change in activities.
YELLOW	51-100	Moderate	No change in activities.
ORANGE	101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	No change in recess activities. Modifications to PE activities for sensitive students.
RED	151-200	Unhealthy	Recess can be outdoors, but indoor activities will be available for especially sensitive children.
PURPLE L1	201-250	Very unhealthy	Elementary Recess/PE: indoors After-School Activities: indoors or cancelled Secondary Recess/PE: modified if outdoors

<b>PURPLE L2</b>	251-300	Very unhealthy	Elementary Recess/PE: indoors After-School Activities: indoors or cancelled Secondary Recess/PE: indoors Sports: outdoor games cancelled
<b>BROWN</b>	301+	Hazardous	No outdoor activities of any kind Elementary and secondary activities: indoors Sports: games cancelled

*Updated December 10, 2018*