



El Niño Resources for LAUSD Administrators



Effects

El Niño brings rainstorms and high winds that have multiple effects at school.

- **Flooding** to school sites or surrounding area
- **Delays** in student arrival and dismissal due to weather
- **Loss of power**, water, or gas
- **Loss of phone service**, cell or landline
- **Indoor activities** if student cannot go outside (recess, lunch, PE, etc.)
- **Extended school day** if conditions are unsafe for dismissal or delay after-school pick-ups
- **Relocation/evacuation** of part or all of a school, if flooded or otherwise damaged
- **Loss of communications systems** such as school phones, internet access, or radios
- **Road closures** that impact the ability to access a school
- **Red Cross community shelter** on school grounds, possibly co-located during instruction



Consider impacts throughout the day:

- **Bus stops**
- **Student/staff arrival to school and valet**
- **Breakfast in the Classroom**
- **Instructional periods**
- **Passing periods**
- **Nutrition/recess**
- **Lunch/lunchtime activities**
- **Dismissal**
- **Field Trips**
- **Student pick-up points**
- **After school activities**
- **Athletic events**
- **Weekend activities and use of site**



Weather Alert Lingo

- **Watch:** Conditions are favorable for an event; usually covers a large area and timeframe.
- **Advisory:** Conditions are likely to occur but not severe enough to prompt a warning.
- **Warning:** An event is already occurring or is likely to occur immediately. Warnings are only issued for severe events that threaten life safety



Key District Documents for El Niño Preparation

- **Safe School Plan Volume 2:** 4.2 Shelter in Place, 5.11 Flooding, 5.12 Loss of Utilities
- **Reference Guide 5706.2** School Procedures during Inclement Weather Conditions
- **Reference Guide 5450.1** School Emergency Response Boxes
- **Reference Guide 5435.1** NOAA Public Alert Radios
- **Bulletin 6084.0** Use of School Facilities in an Emergency or Disaster Situation



El Niño Resources for LAUSD Administrators



School Preparedness Reminders

- Review the Safe School Plan Volume 2 and other emergency documents
- Review the M+O storm preparation checklist with your plant manager.
- Discuss with key staff the sites on or near your school that are prone to flooding.
- Designate accessible alternate locations for areas prone to flooding – this may be classrooms, multipurpose room, gym, entrances, drop-off locations, or paths of travel.
- Review emergency procedures with staff regularly. Spend a few minutes in each meeting discussing different scenarios, using the provided list of El Niño effects
- Update School Emergency Response Box records to have hard copies of information handy if the power goes out or you need to evacuate. Keep a flashlight in the box.
- Download the LAUSD Staff/Responder Emergency Plan app. Encourage staff and parents to download versions for them available at <http://achieve.lausd.net/emergencyapps>
- Keep a list of indoor activities and resources suitable for large groups indoors, for recess/lunch in alternate spaces.
- Create alternate supervision plans if staff is delayed or additional help is needed.
- Consider cancelling field trips to outdoor locations during inclement weather.
- Keep some emergency supplies in the building, so that you don't have to visit the emergency bin in a storm to care for your students and staff.
- Know how a loss of power, alternate routes, shelter in place, or other effects of weather impact students, staff, and visitors with disabilities.
- Ensure that parents keep contact information current.
- Designate an indoor space where early arrivals to school can wait.
- Develop a site communication plan to address weather-related issues.
- Plan for PA system weather announcements and reminders at transition times.
- Report major operational impact to your Local District.
- Notify School Police of any impact that jeopardizes student and staff safety (e.g., loss of power/dark hallways across campus).
- Carry a Blackboard Connect calling card with you to easily send messages from your cell phone.
- Contact LD Operations if parents/guardians ask about potential school closure.
- Hold a brief meeting with key staff if weather impacts might continue the following day.
- Have 5-column class rosters available in case access to internet is lost.
- Include a school map and staff roster with phone numbers in sub folders.
- Leave specific instructions to be followed when you are not on site.
- Provide extra walk off mats at main corridor entrances and assign staff to regularly mop up excess water.
- Cordon off flooded areas of campus with caution tape and cones.
- Evaluate street conditions and relocate drop-off areas if water levels are above the sidewalk.
- Report water intrusion or leaking roofs to M+O at 213-745-1600. Make sure wet areas are dried out immediately to discourage mold and mildew growth.
- Review personal preparedness and driving tips provided in employee resource sheets.



Internet Resources

- Classroom El Niño instruction and activities - <http://www.elNino.noaa.gov/>
- LAUSD El Niño resources - <http://achieve.lausd.net/elNino>
- LA County El Niño resources and general guidelines - <http://www.lacounty.gov/elNino>
- LA City resident El Niño resources and general guidelines - <http://www.elNinola.com/>
- Disaster preparedness - <http://www.redcross.org/prepare>
- Disaster preparedness - <http://www.ready.gov/natural-disasters>

