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## **ECSD NEWS**

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For Immediate Release

### **WeatherSTEM Stations Installed at All ECSD High Schools**

Increased Heat Awareness and Lightning Detection/Warning System  
Technology Now Available

Recent tragedies involving students participating in outdoor sports and activities in harsh weather conditions have led to an increased focus on finding ways to predict conditions which may be hazardous to students. Advance knowledge of extreme temperatures and humidity levels is important, especially for our students and staff members participating in outdoor activities or events.

The traditional system of measuring temperature and humidity, known as the heat index, has been improved by adding measurements of radiation from the sun and wind to provide a new metric known as a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT).

“Using a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature to gauge the heat and humidity is far more accurate because it also takes into account wind speed and solar radiation. However, conditions can change quickly and getting updated readings every half hour takes the proper equipment and dedicated manpower. Many schools around the state do not have the equipment or an extra trained, responsible person to dedicate to this, so athletic directors across Florida are very happy to have weather stations from WeatherSTEM to rely on instead,” explained Escambia County School District’s Director of Athletics Roger Mayo, CMAA.

“We are pleased to announce that all Escambia County public high schools now have access to real-time, WBGT information and predictions provided by WeatherSTEM,” added Mayo.

Each WeatherSTEM unit has a variety of sensors that collect data including solar radiation, ultraviolet radiation, amounts and the rate of rain fall, wind speed and wind direction. They are powered by a solar panel and they transmit the data collected to WeatherSTEM where the data can be compiled into a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature which provides guidance to principals, coaches, band directors as well as other instructors and student leaders. Each station includes placement of sensors in two locations, one high and one at field level. The height of the first location also allows a camera to transmit a view of the sky above the school’s field.

Escambia County’s Superintendent Malcolm Thomas explained that installing the stations at the high schools will be beneficial to all ECSD schools. “The information available to us will reduce the chance of our students experiencing heat stroke by giving us information about increasing water breaks, having ice available or canceling outdoor activities all together. Installing the WeatherSTEM equipment is a great investment, especially if even one student is prevented from experiencing hazardous conditions.

“When you look at the data available at [Escambia.WeatherSTEM.com](https://www.weatherstem.com), such as the temperature and humidity levels, you will see that our elementary and middle school administrators will be able to use the results from the high schools closest to their campus to get information to adjust plans for outdoor activities,” said Superintendent Thomas.

Principals, coaches and teachers will be able to receive alerts when conditions reach a set level, or when predictions warn of dangerous levels. These predictions will give coaches and other instructors the ability to plan when they may need to adjust their schedules, practice in the morning, start practice later, stay inside or bring extra water and ice, etc.

Escambia County School District and athletic trainers at the Andrews Institute have developed procedures and a notification warning protocol in order to make decisions concerning outdoor activities involving inclement weather events, explained Kevin Windham, ECSD's Director of Risk management and Benefits.

"The safety of our students, staff, and general public attending outdoor events continues to be a priority of the School District; these weather stations from WeatherSTEM will be instrumental in both standardizing and maximizing this priority," added Windham.

For more information about WeatherSTEM, explore their web page at <https://www.weatherstem.com/> or contact Edward Mansouri, WeatherSTEM CEO and Founder, <http://www.weatherstem.com> Office: 850 297 1800 ext 706, Mobile: 850 212 3258

Photos of some of the WeatherSTEM units will be available on Facebook on the page, Escambia Schools Public Relations.

Media queries about Escambia County School District topics should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at 850-393-0539, 850-469-6219 or [kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us).

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