



Toledo Police Athletic League (PAL)

Inclement Weather and School Closure Policy

The policy:

1. Clearly establishes **closure authority** with the Toledo PAL Program Director.
2. Incorporates **Ohio-appropriate winter weather benchmarks** (snow, ice, wind chill, power outages, hazardous roads)
3. Direct references and align with **TPS decision-making language and timelines (5:30 a.m. review, safety-first standard)**
4. Defines **automatic cancellation of after-school PAL activities when TPS is closed**.
5. Outlines **clear communication methods** (social media and text messaging)
6. Reinforces **parent/guardian responsibility** during inclement weather.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define how the Toledo Police Athletic League (Toledo PAL) responds to school closures, delays, and early dismissals caused by frigid temperatures, inclement weather, or other emergency conditions. Toledo PAL prioritizes the safety of youth participants, families, staff, volunteers, and law enforcement personnel. As such, Toledo PAL aligns its operational decisions with Toledo Public Schools (TPS) policies and procedures regarding weather-related school operations.

This policy ensures consistency, clarity, and timely communication when weather conditions may affect after-school and PAL-sponsored activities.

2. Policy Statement

Toledo PAL follows Toledo Public Schools (TPS) operational decisions regarding weather-related school closures, delays, and emergency dismissals. When TPS schools are closed, delayed, or dismissed early due to hazardous weather or emergency conditions, Toledo PAL after-school and evening programs will be canceled unless otherwise expressly approved by the Toledo PAL Program Director.

This alignment reflects Toledo PAL's commitment to student safety, transportation concerns, and family awareness, recognizing that hazardous conditions impacting school operations also pose risks for after-school activities.

3. Closure Decision Authority

The authority to cancel, delay, or suspend Toledo PAL after-school activities rests with the **Toledo PAL Program Director**.

In making this determination, the Program Director will:

- Follow official Toledo Public Schools announcements regarding school closures, delays, or early dismissals.
- Consider local weather conditions and forecasts.
- Evaluate road conditions and transportation safety.
- Assess facility availability and power/utility disruptions.
- Prioritize the safety and well-being of youth participants and staff.

When Toledo Public Schools are closed for the day, **all Toledo PAL after-school programs scheduled to take place in TPS buildings or immediately following school hours will be canceled.**

4. Weather Benchmarks and Safety Considerations (General for Ohio)

Winter weather in Northwest Ohio can create rapidly changing and dangerous conditions. Toledo PAL recognizes that impassable roads and hazardous driving conditions may require adjustments to program operations. Consistent with TPS guidance, schools, and affiliated programs close when it is unsafe to put children and buses on the road.

Hazards that may trigger closures include, but are not limited to:

- Significant snowfall
- Freezing rain or ice accumulation
- Extreme wind chill
- Below-zero temperatures
- Prolonged or widespread power outages

While Toledo Public Schools sets its own operational rules, school districts across Ohio commonly close or cancel activities during especially dangerous conditions, including **wind chills of -20°F or lower**, due to the increased risk of **frostbite and hypothermia**, particularly for children waiting outdoors or traveling to and from school and activities.

TPS determines school operations after a careful review of conditions throughout the district, including known trouble spots. A driving tour of the district is typically conducted, with decisions finalized by **5:30 a.m.**

Toledo PAL relies on this established process to guide its own operational decisions, recognizing that the same hazards affecting school transportation and attendance also affect after-school participation and safe travel.

5. After-School Activity Cancellations

5.1 Full-Day School Closures

When Toledo Public Schools are closed for the entire day due to inclement weather or emergency conditions:

- All Toledo PAL after-school and evening programs are **automatically canceled**.
- No PAL programming will take place in TPS facilities.
- Youth participants will not be expected to report to PAL activities.

5.2 Delayed School Start

When Toledo Public Schools operate on a delayed start:

- Toledo PAL after-school programs will proceed as scheduled.
- The Program Director may cancel activities if weather conditions worsen later in the day.

5.3 Early Dismissals or Emergency Closures

TPS avoids closing schools after students have arrived due to concerns about children returning to locked homes. However, in severe emergencies requiring early dismissal:

- Toledo PAL after-school activities will be canceled.
- Announcements will follow TPS emergency communication procedures.

6. Communication Procedures

Timely and accurate communication is critical during weather-related disruptions. Toledo PAL will communicate cancellations and operational changes using the following methods:

- **Social media:** Official Toledo PAL Facebook and social media platforms
- **Text Messages:** PAL text notification system to registered families.
- **Coordination with TPS:** Monitoring TPS announcements through local television, radio, and district Facebook updates.

If Toledo Public Schools does not make a cancellation announcement, schools and associated after-school programs are considered open as scheduled.

Toledo PAL will make every effort to communicate cancellations as early as possible once TPS decisions are announced.

7. Parent and Guardian Responsibility

While Toledo PAL follows Toledo Public Schools' operational decisions, determining the safest plan for children during inclement weather remains the responsibility of parents and guardians. Families are encouraged to:

- Monitor weather conditions.
- Stay informed through TPS and Toledo PAL communications.
- Use discretion when deciding whether their child should participate in activities during marginal weather conditions.

Parents may choose to keep their child home even when schools or PAL programs remain open.

8. Compliance and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Toledo PAL Program Director to ensure alignment with Toledo Public Schools policies and evolving safety standards.

*Any exceptions to this policy must **be approved** in writing by the Toledo PAL Program Director.*

Effective Date: January 16, 2026

Approved By: Toledo Lucas County Police Athletic League PAL Program Director

Policy Applies To: All Toledo PAL after-school and evening programs conducted in coordination with Toledo Public Schools (TPS)

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