

# Palm Beach County Schools improves student safety & ensures compliant sports programs



## Maximizing planning & response time for weather events

### OVERVIEW

The School District of Palm Beach County is the tenth largest district in the nation, serving nearly 190,000 students who speak 150 languages and dialects. It's the size of Rhode Island. As the largest employer in Palm Beach County, the district has 22,891 employees, including more than 12,750 teachers. Given the district's responsibility for the daily safety and wellbeing of more than 200,000 community members and coastal Florida's reputation for high temperatures, heavy humidity, and severe lightning storms, Palm Beach County schools needed a comprehensive approach to weather safety, including compliance with Florida's Zachary Martin Act. Partnering with AEM's Earth Networks brand, the district built a system that provided the data they needed to make timely, responsible decisions to keep students, teachers, and others in the community safe.

## Overcoming challenges of scale

Palm Beach County School District was specifically challenged by the geographic size of their district and variability of weather across Florida. To find a better way forward, the district was looking for a solution that would help their safety and risk management team understand developing weather across the region quickly to inform decision making and response at both the whole-district and individual school levels. To achieve that, the district and AEM determined they needed a solution that would:

### 1. CREATE A TOTAL WEATHER AWARENESS HUB

The solution needed to provide specific, easy-to-interpret forecasts for 180 individual schools.

### 2. SIMPLIFY & INFORM SCHEDULING DECISIONS

The solution needed to support timely and crucial decisions while simplifying communication for the team.

### 3. BUILD A WEATHER-READY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The solution needed to provide clear data coaches and athletic directors could use to protect athletes and practice time.

### UNDERSTANDING THE DEMANDS OF EDUCATION

No two schools or districts are exactly the same. Each site has its own weather-related concerns based on location, the age of the students, the values of the community, and beyond. That's why the School District of Palm Beach County needed a weather safety solution that was both comprehensive and highly flexible.

Whether it's knowing if it's safe to go out to play for P.E., understanding when busses need to be held, or guaranteeing it's safe for students and teachers to even show up at the building, there are constant weather-dependent decisions being made by administrators in the world of education.



## Solution: custom meteorological services

Earth Networks, an AEM brand, partnered with the School District of Palm Beach County to create a centralized, definitive weather awareness and resiliency toolkit that's designed to grow and evolve based on the district's goals. The suite of hardware, software, and meteorological services is providing value to the risk management team, police department, and even science educators and students across the district.



### DISTRICT-WIDE WEATHER NETWORK

Earth Networks increased hyperlocal forecasting capacity for individual schools and sites throughout the district, leasing weather stations from AEM's family of brands.



### TOTAL WEATHER AWARENESS SOFTWARE

Extending Sferic Maps, Earth Networks was able to create a comprehensive weather information and command center for the district's risk management team.

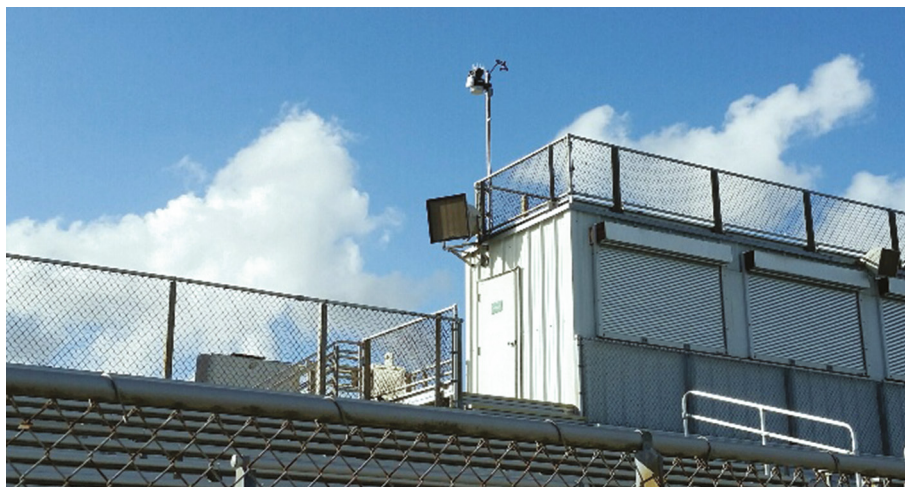


### AUTOMATIC HEAT STRESS ALERTS

Earth Networks provided automated real-time WBGT calculations for coaches and athletic directors, guaranteeing student safety and compliance with the Zachary Martin Act.

## Weather resiliency in action in Palm Beach County

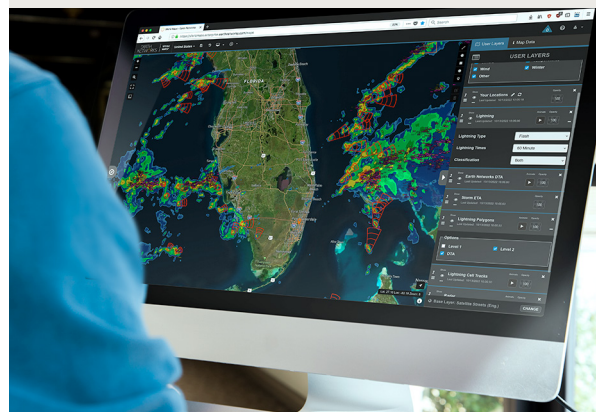
Now, students and employees can count on the Palm Beach County School District as one of the most weather-ready districts anywhere in the United States. Whether it's keeping as many people dry as possible during daily dismissals, protecting student-athletes from lightning or tracking potential hurricanes as they approach Palm Beach, the district's risk management team has the tools they need to maximize weather safety and awareness.



## Why AEM?

AEM's purpose is to empower communities and organizations to survive – and thrive – in the face of escalating environmental risks. For Palm Beach County Schools, that required overhauling their approach to forecasting and weather safety rapidly.

Working with AEM, the district was able to pop up an approach to Zachary Martin Act compliance in just two months. To maximize the affordability of the solution, Palm Beach County Schools selected to lease their network of weather stations from AEM, which significantly reduced their start-up costs and eliminated all internal maintenance requirements.



### 1. NEEDS-BASED WEATHER RESILIENCY

We help you build severe weather, flood, and wildfire risk management solutions that are directly aligned to your needs, goals, and the work you do.

### 2. DEDICATED METEOROLOGY TEAM

Our Earth Networks Meteorological Services Team is on call 24/7/365 to provide you with the forecasting and interpretive guidance you need.

### 3. END-TO-END SOLUTIONS

The AEM family of brands can support all your weather monitoring, risk management, and response coordination needs, from sensors to software.