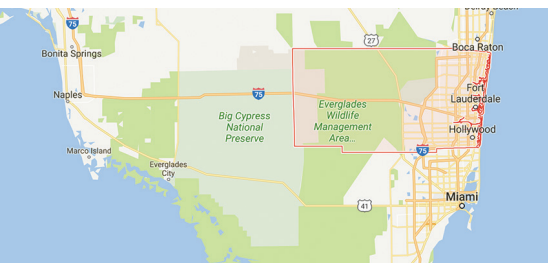


EARLY SEVERE WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS PROTECT STUDENTS, STAFF AND RESIDENTS

Broward County, Florida is home to the sixth largest school district in the nation and the second largest in the state of Florida. Broward County Public Schools consist of over 271,000 students and approximately 175,000 adult students in 236 schools, centers, technical colleges and 101 charter schools. The school system also employs 32,899 staff members throughout the different learning locations. With their large community of students and staff, Broward County Public Schools have a lot of people to worry about. One of the greatest threats against their students and employees is the dangerous weather that often descends upon the Florida panhandle without warning.

COMBAT SEVERE WEATHER

Fort Lauderdale weather is very active all year long with thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes. Preparing for these storms and having real-time updates of developing storm systems are critical for schools in the area to keep students, faculty and parents safe throughout the busy school year.



COMPLETE SOLUTION FOR OVERALL SAFETY

Broward County Schools use a suite of Earth Networks products to protect students, staff and residents. The district installed 55 Earth

Networks lightning sensors across Broward County at public safety facilities, 25 schools and other district sites. The school system combines these lightning sensors with Earth Networks web-visualization tools to show real-time storm formation as well as accompanying alerts and over 25 weather variables. Because Broward County covers such a large area, they also call on Earth Networks' expert meteorological team to provide 24/7 analysis when tricky storms or tornadoes could potentially form. Broward County Schools also receive accompanying text alerts that let teachers and administrators stay informed no matter where they are.

WHY IT MATTERS

On February 28, 2007, Broward County Schools were preparing for dismissal when a fast-moving and powerful storm began to intensify and impact several cities within the county. Earth Networks immediately began disseminating severe weather alerts for the approaching lightning strikes, wind and rainfall to users within the school system through their mobile devices. The severe weather prompted Earth Networks meteorologists to call key Broward County School officials to inform them of the impending weather and to advise them to curtail outdoor operations and bring their personnel to safety even though the weather on many locations seemed calm. At 1:42 pm, the National Weather Service issued an official tornado warning based on tornadic signatures detected by radar. Earth Networks immediately relayed the tornado warnings through all available channels to the Broward County Schools System. Schools officials initiated their Tornado Warning Procedures by moving students to protected areas and delaying dismissal until 2:30 pm. 13 minutes following the warning, a tornado was reported within an area that included several schools. Thanks to advance and customizable notifications from Earth Networks, no one was injured by the tornado.

COMPREHENSIVE ALERTING SUITE

OVERVIEW

Earth Networks offers a wide variety of alerting and weather visualization tools to ensure that everyone within the Broward County Schools System receives critical weather information in an accessible, real-time manner.

CHALLENGES

Keep students, faculty and residents safe from quick-forming Florida thunderstorms and tornadoes before, during and after school.

SOLUTION

Install Outdoor Alerting Systems that sounds an alert when severe weather approaches, use a web-visualization tool to see storms and access expert meteorologists in critical situations.

RESULTS

Broward County Schools have both automated and personal weather warning and information delivered to their staff immediately; allowing enough time for teachers and administrators to quickly end outdoor activities and ensure student safety.



The Earth Networks app read that the lightning strikes would be over at 2:11 for Lloyd and at 2:10:50 the rain stopped and the skies cleared."



Lucille J. Morris, Principal at Lloyd Estates Elementary School