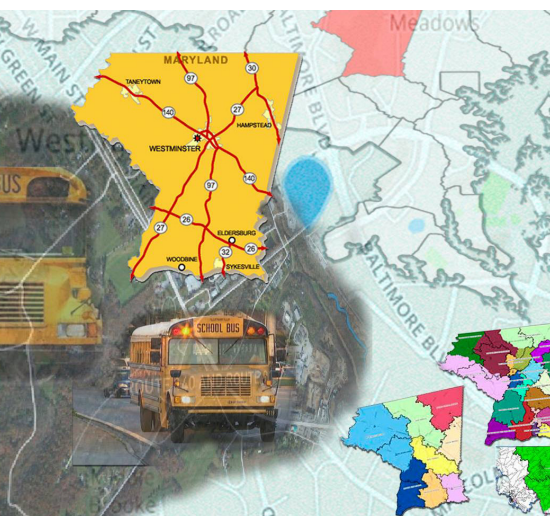


## DISTRICT-WIDE SEVERE WEATHER PROTECTION FOR CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Located just outside of Baltimore, Maryland, Carroll County Public Schools has a population of over 25,000 students. This diverse school district operates 41 schools and ensures the success and safety of 23 different sports programs, 16 of which are outdoors. The district is also responsible for 690 athletic coaches who work with student-athletes in their seven high schools.



### PRIORITIZING STUDENT-ATHLETE AND STAFF SAFETY

Lightning and heat are two of the biggest opponents student-athletes face. This is even more important for student-athletes in Carroll County because of the area's flat landscape and subtropical, humid climate. These factors make Carroll County Public Schools even more prone to weather-related sports tragedies due to both lightning and high temperatures. In the past, the district used unreliable and primitive weather detection methods to protect outdoor student-athletes, staff, and visitors from lightning. After simply relying on visual identification for lightning strikes without the presence of a standard weather safety policy, the district knew they could no longer "play Russian roulette with athletes' lives." The same went for days over 80°F or heat days. The problem with monitoring temperature when it comes to heat is that there are a lot more factors that go into understanding "real feel" temperatures.

### PROFESSIONAL WEATHER MONITORING AND DETECTION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

In 2009, Carroll County Public Schools made a critical decision in student safety by bringing on a professional weather monitoring and lightning detection solution. What started as a test with one of the district's high schools turned into a district-wide safety system to protect everyone on campus. Once lightning approaches within an 8-mile radius of each school, the Earth Networks Outdoor Alerting System automatically warns those in the area with a loud horn and flashing strobe light that dangerous weather is approaching. These warnings are very advanced thanks to Earth Networks hyperlocal total lightning network. Carroll County Public Schools also receives automated customized email, text, mobile and desktop alerts to align with their new lightning safety policies. Heat Index and Wet Bulb Globe Temperature take more factors than just temperature into account. With an Earth Networks weather station in the district, decision-makers are better able to understand what heat stress their student-athletes are going through and when to suspend activities or add in extra water breaks.

### WHY IT MATTERS

This severe weather safety solution benefits the entire county. Besides protecting the district's various outdoor sports programs, including football, field hockey, and soccer; this system also protects the nearby community, outdoor visitors, students, staff, and outdoor events. In 2017, Earth Networks detected 363,544 total lightning strikes, which includes 6,860 potential dangerous lightning strikes around Carroll County. Earth Networks historical weather data also shows that Carroll County had 91 heat days in 2017. By utilizing a district-wide weather-safety solution from Earth Networks, the administrators at Carroll County Public Schools were able to protect a yearly average of 25,000 students over the past decade from thunderstorms and extreme heat.

## AUTOMATICALLY PROTECTING STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM SEVERE WEATHER

### OVERVIEW

Carroll County Public Schools uses Earth Networks severe weather monitoring and alerting systems to protect its 25,000 students, 16 outdoor sports programs, thousands of staff members, visitors and the nearby community.

### CHALLENGES

Stop playing "Russian roulette" with student-athletes' lives when it comes to severe weather like thunderstorms or extreme heat.

### SOLUTION

Deployed Outdoor Alerting Systems at the district's seven high schools and one outdoor school along with email, text, mobile, and desktop alerts for lightning and heat.

### RESULTS

Carroll County Public Schools now protects their student-athletes, staff, and visitors from extreme weather with a combination of Earth Networks solutions and an advanced weather safety policy that they responsibly communicate with other schools and referees.



*The safety and wellbeing of our student-athletes, coaches, and fans are of the utmost importance in Carroll County, which is why we have an Earth Networks solution.*



**- Dave Dolch, District AD,  
Carroll County Public Schools**