



El Niño Winter Readiness

Protect school property before storms arrive

OCTOBER 2026



PREPARE NOW FOR WINTER 2026–27

NOAA's October outlook favors a strong-to-very-strong El Niño through January–March 2027. Act now to reduce avoidable water damage and disruption.

01 Roof inspections and repairs: schedule now

- Use qualified roofing personnel to inspect every site before heavy rain. Prioritize past leaks, older roofs and buildings with critical equipment.
- Check roof coverings, seams, flashing, skylights and seals around rooftop equipment. Look for ponding, blocked roof outlets and interior water stains.
- Photograph deficiencies. Assign repairs, a responsible person and a completion date. Confirm repairs before storms. Use trained staff and required fall protection for roof work.

02 Gutters and drainage

- Clear gutters, downspouts, roof drains and overflow outlets. Check that discharge routes carry water away from buildings.
- Inspect storm drains, catch basins and drainage channels. Remove debris and flag pooling or past flooding. Recheck after leaf fall and storms, when safe.

03 Flood supplies within reach

- Stage sandbags or suitable flood barriers at each site or arrange rapid delivery from the District Office. Confirm quantities, storage access, transport and who deploys them.
- Stock sand, bags, shovels, plastic sheeting, gloves, flashlights and barriers. Test pumps and hoses. Plan placement in advance and keep exits clear.

04 A response plan before the forecast turns

- Identify flood-prone entrances and protect equipment and records. Test leak alerts and sump pumps. Mark utility shutoffs for authorized staff.
- Confirm after-hours contacts, site keys, and roofing and water-removal service availability. Monitor NWS alerts and assign pre-storm checks.
- If water enters; restrict access, report promptly through district/SIG procedures, photograph damage, and arrange safe mitigation. Keep people out of floodwater.

THIS WEEK'S PRIORITY: CONFIRM EVERY SITE IS STORM-READY

At each site, confirm roof repairs are complete, drains are clear, flood supplies are accessible, and an after-hours contact is designated. Share this checklist with facilities and site teams.