



## Superintendent's Message: School Update for Jan. 13, 2025

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Community Members,

All **Santa Monica schools, with the exception of Roosevelt Elementary**, still in the evacuation warning zone, **will be open Monday, Jan. 13, 2025**. Schools will be operating on an inclement weather schedule.

**Malibu schools will remain closed Monday, Jan. 13, Tuesday, Jan. 14 and Wednesday, Jan. 15**, due to ongoing safety concerns of the Palisades Fire and the need for campus assessment, cleaning and road reopenings.

For Santa Monica families and staff, schools have been cleaned and assessed and are healthy for return on Monday. Air quality is currently reported as moderate, however, with some residual ash and soot from the fire outdoors, in the abundance of caution we will be on an inclement weather schedule tomorrow. Several years ago, SMMUSD conducted an extensive facility improvement project at all of our schools that replaced, improved or installed new windows, doors and heat, ventilation and air conditioning systems. These upgrades have made a tremendous positive difference in the condition of our indoor spaces during this nearby fire. Our outdoor play areas are undergoing cleaning on Monday and we will update you on plans for Tuesday, also knowing that weather conditions are continuously changing over the next few days. If air quality changes, we will adapt accordingly. You can read more [information about our air quality monitoring and response](#).

I hope you found some peace this weekend as we move into week two of this disaster and recovery. The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families remain our top priority. We will be focused on social emotional learning and meeting students with where they are having experienced this disaster over the past week. Please continue to visit our resource and community services document as it's updated daily: <https://bit.ly/Resources-Fires2025>

For families in the evacuation warning area serving Roosevelt Elementary, Lincoln Middle School and Samohi, along with any family who makes the personal decision to keep their children home tomorrow, we will excuse these absences. Please contact your school office to report this absence.

We deeply appreciate the patience, understanding, and resilience of our Santa Monica and Malibu communities during this challenging time. Stay safe, and we will share additional updates as they become available.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Antonio Shelton, Superintendent