

FINANCE, BUSINESS, AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Business OperationsManagement of buildings and grounds

Closing of school buildings

District enrollment and building usage, capacity, and conditions shall be monitored by the district. A master plan for building usage shall be developed and updated by the superintendent at least every three years. A report to the Board including such matters as usage and capacity, state of repair, enrollment over the last three year period and future enrollment trends shall be included in the report. Any school building whose enrollment has suffered a decline over the three year reporting period shall be considered for closing.

When the enrollment in the district results in unused capacity, school buildings shall be considered for closing.

In determining which school or schools shall be closed, the following factors shall be considered:

1. Educational program (i.e., efficacy of educational program at a building, accommodation of the planned educational program in the schools remaining open).
2. Capacity (i.e., space for the efficient, effective and educationally sound organization of the total enrollment).
3. Safety and access (e.g., student safety and ease of access to the building; distance, time and cost of transporting students).
4. Relocation (i.e., number of students whose school assignment will be changed, capacity and projected enrollment at receiving school).
5. Burden (i.e., equitable sharing by students throughout the district of the effects of school closings).
6. Diversity (i.e., impact on socioeconomic status and race and ethnicity in the schools).
7. Accessibility for the handicapped (i.e., present or potential capability of the building to accommodate handicapped persons).
8. Age and condition (e.g., operation and maintenance costs, transportation costs, cost of closing facility, energy consumption and costs, cost to renovate).

9. Future use (e.g., marketability, conversion to another use, sale, or use as an alternative school).
10. Circumstances (i.e., unique situations within the school or district, impact of closing on neighborhood or community).
11. Student enrollment trends (i.e., projected assigned population and anticipated residential growth or decline).
12. Space to accommodate choice of community schools and open enrollment. Space to accommodate community/school collaborations and other district initiatives.
13. Location and site characteristics.
14. Ability to maintain feeder patterns from elementary school to middle school to high school to assure K-12 continuity.

Since conditions may not permit giving equal weight to all factors, decisions shall be based on overall balance and objectivity.

The report to the Board on the closing of specific schools shall include the factors used in the selection process. A statement of rationale for each school affected by the closing of a specific school shall be included in the report and made available to parents and the community.

Policy

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