

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

School Closure

Prior to the Board adopting a resolution closing an operating school, the Board shall consider the impact of such school closure on the education community. In evaluating the impact, the Board shall consider at a minimum the following factors:

1. Projected or actual enrollment declines and the likelihood that they will remain permanent.
2. The effect the school closure will have on other facilities and on the district's educational program offering.
3. Potential for alternative use of the facility, including the potential for revenue for sale or lease of property.
4. Financial considerations including operation and maintenance costs, anticipated capital improvements, and the costs of closure and transferring operations elsewhere in relation to other schools in the district.
5. The effect the school closure will have on district staffing, and on the costs of instruction, administration, transportation and other support services.
6. Student safety factors, including travel, school building features, and school grounds, in relation to other schools in the district. Ability of other schools in the affected district to safely accommodate pupils if a school closes.
7. Such other facts as the Board deems necessary and appropriate in light of the circumstances.

During the ninety days before a final decision is made on a school closure, the board shall conduct hearings to receive a testimony from the public.

A separate hearing may be held for each school that is being considered for closure.

Notice of each hearing shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the area. The last notice of hearing shall be published not later than seven days immediately before the final hearing.

The School District may close a school for emergency reasons without complying with the public hearing set forth above.

The Board is not required to make specific findings with respect to the criteria.

Comments received from public hearings are for advisory purposes only. The weight to be given any of the criteria is left to the complete and sole discretion of the Board. The final determination of whether a facility shall remain open and what alternative the district shall take shall be made by the Board.

Legal References:

Cross References:

Policy History:

Adopted On: 6.22.1999

Revised On: