

CLOSING OF FACILITIES

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, the building will be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The Board may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. Specifically, the Board may establish an advisory committee to investigate the educational impact of closing a school building. The study shall consider all or some of the following:

1. age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities;
2. adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions;
3. enrollment projections and district demographic pattern;
4. reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to Board policy ;
5. the capacity of other district facilities to absorb students, staff and programs displaced by the closing;
6. transportation factors, including number of children bused, time, distance, and safety;
7. the impact on student safety, including distances and routes traveled to and from school;
8. costs/savings in personnel, plant operation, transportation, capital investment and alternative use;
9. the historic value of the building. In such cases it make take special action to provide for its preservation;
10. the relationship of the closing to the district's long-range plan
11. alternative uses of buildings;
12. continuity of instructional and community program.

Pursuant to section 402-a of the Education Law, after filing of the statement, the district will publish and post notification of the proposed closing and circulation of the notice to elected state and public officials who represent the affected communities.

After publication of the suggested notice pursuant to Section 402-a, and within 60 days of the issuance of the educational impact statement, the Board shall hold a public hearing to evaluate the proposed closing on the affected district. Among the factors to be considered at the hearing are those discussed in the educational impact statement and alternatives may be presented by interested parties.

The Board shall render its decision on the closing of the building at a regular or special meeting.

Ref: Education Law ' ' 1604; 1709