

CLOSURE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The Board of Education recognizes that the decision to close a school impacts directly and profoundly the children attending school, the teachers, administrators and staff working in the building, and the community in which the school operates. The Board also recognizes that the physical age and conditions of our school buildings, the number of students enrolled in our schools and the availability of alternative and newer schools that may better serve the needs of our students compels the Board to look critically at the District to ensure that resources are allocated in order that all students receive the highest quality of education possible to prepare them for a life of learning, work and active engagement in society.

Consequently, the Board establishes procedures, in the order enumerated below, that the District shall follow prior to submission to the Board of a resolution to propose the closure of a school building:

1. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop a preliminary plan for the proposed closure of any school of the District. The plan shall include the following elements:
 - (a) academic and social history of school under consideration;
 - (b) physical condition and limitations of the building;
 - (c) rationale for its closure;
 - (d) academic and social impacts of closure on students and school community;
 - (e) building(s) to which such students would be assigned;
 - (f) financial impact of the school's closure on the District; and
 - (g) alternatives to closure that are available to students and their families; and
 - (h) if the school building may be closed for academic reasons, the plan shall consider whether the school has had a new principal in place for two academic years or less; whether the school has served as a receiving school for students reassigned to the building due to a school closure or consolidation within the last two years; and whether there are higher performing schools in close proximity with space available to meet the students' educational needs.
2. The Board shall be made aware of the preliminary plan no less than three months prior to the date at which the Board will be asked to consider a resolution to close a school building.
3. After the Board has reviewed the plan, a public hearing will be properly noticed and conducted to gather input from the District's stakeholders

4. After the Board has reviewed the plan, the Superintendent of Schools shall submit and present the preliminary plan to the following constituent groups at public meetings:
 - (a) Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council;
 - (b) Affected Zone Improvement Team;
 - (c) Affected School Based Planning Team;
 - (d) Affected parents, students, staff and community; and
 - (e) Board of Education Committee of the Whole.
5. Upon completion of the presentations, the District shall submit to the Board the preliminary plan with modifications as appropriate, together with a summary of the comments offered by the constituent groups.
6. Following public discussion of the preliminary plan, the Board may consider a resolution to approve, reject or modify the plan for the closure of the school building.
7. The steps identified above may be waived by the Board of Education in the event of an emergency or other exigent circumstance as determined and articulated by resolution of the Board of Education.

Adopted January 24, 2013 pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-13: 434.