

CLOSING OF FACILITIES

The Board of Education will seek both professional and community advice concerning any contemplated closing of any school facility due to age, condition, size, or other considerations.

An advisory committee shall be formed at least six months in advance of a proposed closing, with membership comprising Board members, appropriate administrative staff, teachers, parents, community and business representatives, and an architect(s) and/or other professionally-trained experts in evaluating building condition/use.

Such committee will prepare an educational impact statement. The study shall consider all or some of the following:

1. the type, age and physical condition of the building, outstanding indebtedness, maintenance and energy costs, recent or planned improvements on the building, any special features of the building, and projected repair or rehabilitation costs to keep it in use;
2. current student enrollment projections and district demographic pattern, the prospective need for a building in the future, the ramifications of the closing upon the community, initial costs and savings resulting for the closing and the potential disposability of the closed school
3. projected short-term and long-range fiscal ramifications of the closing, including cost savings;
4. the capacity of other district facilities to absorb students, staff and programs displaced by the closing;
5. the impact of the closing on district staffing requirements and on the cost of instruction, administration, transportation and other support services
6. the impact on student safety, including distances and routes traveled to and from school;
7. the historic value of the building; and
8. the relationship of the closing to the district's long-range plan.
9. possible use of such school building for other educational programs or administrative services;
10. possible shared utilization of space in such building during or after regular school hours

Pursuant to section 402-a of the Education Law, after filing of the statement with the Board of Education, the district will publish and post notification of the proposed closing in at least one newspaper of general circulation once a week for two weeks. The District shall also post the notice and circulate the notice to elected state and public officials who represent the affected communities.

After publication of the 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 §402-a; 1604; 109 1709(33)

Approved: July 1, 2001

Revised and approved: August 28, 2014