

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES PROCEDURES

Alternatives to closing a school will be considered; these may include the following:

- A. Change boundaries of schools.
- B. Shift programs from one building to another.
- C. House new program(s) in building under consideration.

Factors that will be examined when considering a school for closing include the following:

A. Enrollment and Program

- 1. Enrollment projections as they relate to the ability to provide quality educational programs and services.
- 2. Enrollment projections indicative of continued small student population, taking into account both neighborhood students and others.
- 3. Effect upon education programs for all students in schools effected by the closing.
- 4. Relationship to integration efforts.
- 5. Proximity of the school to community resources.
- 6. Relationship to sector plan for special education and feeder plan for regular attendance centers.

B. Community Considerations

- 1. Attitudes toward reducing the number of attendance units and reducing costs.
- 2. Hardships and/or benefits to parents and/or children resulting from closure, distance from where students reside to schools where assignments would be made.
- 3. Reactions on the part of parents and other school patrons.
- 4. Effect upon the neighborhood in the event of closure.

C. Building Characteristics

1. Age and condition of building including whether or not building is energy efficient.
2. Adequacy of building for programs, existence of a multi-purpose room and/or other special areas, feasibility of replacement or additions, if needed.
3. Suitability of the building for other uses.
4. Capacity of buildings in adjacent attendance areas, space to house additional students.

D. Environmental Factors

1. Adequacy of the building in terms of student health and safety.
2. Frequency of vandalism and amount of damage.
3. Location and size of site.
4. Traffic hazards and/or serious deterrents to learning in the surrounding community.

E. Financial Considerations

1. Staffing requirements.
2. Food service and student transportation requirements and expenses resulting from closure.
3. Comparative per student operating costs related to status quo.
4. Value of property for other uses.
5. Savings which might accrue by reducing the number of attendance units.

F. Relationship to long-range planning efforts

1. Comprehensive planning of the district, other governmental bodies and planning agencies and private interests.
2. Need to use property for other purposes.

3. Current and projected land use resulting in changes in residential and commercial patterns.

The administration should consider the following:

- A. Parents and other school patrons will be involved early in discussions pertaining to possible school closing and program relocation.
- B. Use may be made of outside consultants when considering school closings.
- C. An orderly procedure, including the provision of information to all who will be affected, will be used when closing a school. Parents will be informed in advance regarding recommendations and possible Board action. Boundaries will be realigned when a school is to be closed, taking into account distances from other schools, traffic patterns, building capacities, enrollments and programs. Time will be provided for adequate preparation for closing and reassignment of students and staff members.

Adopted: 01/23/94
Revised: 11/13/98
Reviewed 03/14/16

Legal References:

- SDCL 13-23-1 - School board's power to establish and discontinue—Time for action closing school.
- SDCL 13-23-2 - Power of district voters to direct establishment or discontinuance of attendance center.
- SDCL 13-23-3 - Resolution or petition to discontinue attendance center—Time of election—Board bound by decision of voters.