

Billings School District 2

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Criteria to Open, Operate or Close a School

The Board recognizes that often the center of any neighborhood is its neighborhood school. The Board also recognizes that all facilities have a life cycle and that neighborhoods change, which may require reassessments of building utilization.

The Board desires that all students be in facilities that are safe and comfortable and that properly accommodate core programs of the District and special programs required at any particular site.

In considering whether or not to continue operating a District school, the Board may consider:

Facilities

A. Building condition

1. ADA compliance and accessibility
2. Cost to make needed improvements
3. Energy and other operations costs
4. Maintenance costs
5. Environmental quality and comfort

B. Age and projected useful life of building

1. Problematic building areas
2. Adequate space for regular, special, and itinerant programs
3. Assessment of building systems for remaining design life
4. Evaluation of systems for building safety, both internal and external

C. Building attributes

1. Capacity
2. Size of site for play areas
3. Quality of play areas
4. Availability and quality of parking
5. Traffic circulation patterns around a building
6. Expansion possibilities
7. Options for financing improvements or replacements

D. Location

1. Proximity to other schools
2. Impact of closure on other schools
3. Busing patterns
4. Proximity to other cultural institutions
5. Proximity to previously closed schools

Enrollment

- A. Current enrollment
- B. Enrollments for preceding five (5) years and projected enrollments for next five (5) years
- C. Attendance patterns, i.e., mobility rate of the student body

Educational Programs

- A. Ability to deliver desired programs
- B. Impact of closure on special services and programs offered
- C. Options for delivery of educational programs
- D. Impact of closure on after-school or evening programs

Other Factors

- A. Marketability of a property if discontinued
- B. Effect on property values in the area
- C. Possible alternative community uses for facility
- D. Possible alternative commercial uses for facility
- E. Long-term effect on housing patterns of the overall community
- F. Impact on older neighborhoods representing varying socioeconomic backgrounds
- G. Impact on historic preservation of downtown area

Policy History:

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