

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 283

SECTION/FILE 820

DATE OF ADOPTION 5-27-08

REVISED 05/13/19

TITLE Closing of a School Building

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the closing of a school building by the school district under conditions of the policy.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The closing of a school building by the school district may occur under the following conditions:

1. Replaced by a new building.

The school building has been replaced by other school buildings as part of an approved school construction project within the educational district;

2. Condemned;

The school building has been condemned and ordered closed by local or state officials for health and safety reasons.

3. Lack of Need;

The building has been deemed to be unnecessary or unprofitable to maintain by the school district. Before a building is closed, a report shall be submitted to the Board for approval. The report shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

a. Projection of the number of students in the affected area over the next five years;

b. Manner in which the continuation of the educational programs for the affected students will be provided.

c. Proposed date on which the closing will take place.

d. Projection of additional transportation and other related services.

e. Existence of any other outstanding financial commitments, including debt service, related to the school building along with a retirement schedule of payments to meet the commitments.

f. Proposed disposition of the school building.

g. Financial impact of closing the school building.

4. The St. Louis Park school board is responsible for making a final decision to close a building.

B. The school board will schedule a public hearing on the question of the necessity and practicability of the proposed closing. Published notice of the hearing shall be given for two weeks in the official newspaper of the district and the district website. The time and place of the meeting, the description and location of the school, and a statement of the reasons for the closing must be specified in the notice. Parties requesting to give testimony for and against the proposal shall be heard by the school board before it makes a final decision to close or not to close the school.

*Legal References:* Minn. Stat. § (123B.51)

*Cross References:*

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 283**

**SECTION/FILE** 820

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**REVISED** 12/7/09; 05/13/19

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**PROCEDURES**

The procedures described below are in accordance with those requirement(s) and the guidelines as outlined in this Board of Education policy.

- A. The following information on each school that may be affected by a proposed closing shall be prepared and analyzed:
  - 1. Student enrollment trends.
  - 2. Race/ethnic composition of student body.
  - 3. Educational programs at school.
  - 4. Age and condition of building.
  - 5. Building characteristics, including any modifications for special programs.
  - 6. Financial considerations including operating costs.
  - 7. Percentage of students transported.
  - 8. Potential of the facility for alternative use.
- B. In conjunction with requirements, the superintendent shall provide an analysis of each school's current and projected enrollment given the enrollment and facility standards described in this policy and analysis of the impact of closure/consolidation options.
- C. Recommendations for closure or consolidation should move schools toward standards for enrollment, demographic balance, both racial and socio-economic, and facility utilization and should represent fiscally responsible and educationally sound responses to changing enrollment. Recommendations should minimize transportation distances except when transportation or longer distances are required to address racial and ethnic isolation.
- D. The community's role in the process shall be as follows:
  - 1. The superintendent shall request formation of an advisory committee to provide input prior to making any recommendations.
  - 2. The superintendent shall publish recommendations for school closures and consolidations by January.
  - 3. Individuals, schools, and/or community organizations may react to the recommendations for their school within one (1) month after they are distributed. All reactions and community-developed proposals will be shared with the Board.
  - 4. If the Board chooses to request alternatives to the superintendent's formal recommendations, affected communities will be informed about them promptly.
  - 5. Subsequent to these steps, the School Board will hold at least one public hearing. In addition, state requirements for adequate notice to parents and guardians of students in attendance at all schools being considered for closure by the St. Louis Park School Board will be followed. In addition to any regular means of notification, written notification of all schools that are under consideration for closing shall

be advertised in the newspaper, district website and the school or schools to which students will be relocating.

6. In making its decision, the Board shall take into account the superintendent's recommendations and the criteria outlined in this policy.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § (123B.51)

***Cross References:***