Board Policy G-5:
District Reconfigurations & Long-Term School Closures

REFERENCES

G-5: Administrative Procedures, District Reconfigurations & Long-Term School Closures
Utah Code Ann. §53G-4-402(21), [Local School Board] Powers and Duties Generally
Utah Code Ann. §53G-6-302 et seq., School District Residency
Utah Admin. Code R277-437, Student Enrollment Options

THE POLICY

The Salt Lake City School District Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to make changes in the configuration and organization of district schools; such changes may include opening or closing a school, changing the grade structure of a school, demolishing and constructing a school building, and/or changing school boundaries. The board’s goal is to ensure that students are educated in school facilities that: are safe and secure; support students’ health and well-being; are capable of supporting the latest in educational programming; and contain furniture, fixtures, and school spaces that facilitate teaching and learning for all students. The board seeks to maximize the efficient use of district facilities and effective administration of district schools while balancing the effect that any changes can have on parents, neighborhoods, communities, district personnel, and, of course, students. The superintendent shall annually review the organization and configuration of district schools and, if necessary, make recommendations to the board for organizational adjustments.

When reviewing the configuration and organization of district schools, the superintendent will consider all applicable factors, including but not limited to school enrollment data; facility capacity and design; school feeder patterns; federal, state, or court mandates; community input; student safety; transportation capacity; community and neighborhood identity; geographic features of the district; special program facilities; environmental factors; demographics; aesthetics; financial implications; and educational programs. The board also requires that any recommendation to change the configuration of district schools or permanently close a school will address whether the proposed change is safe, reasonable, simple, and cost effective. These four criteria will help ensure a uniform review of proposed changes and identify areas of concern that should be studied by the board.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage a regular systematic review of the configuration and organization of district schools and establish a process for making any necessary modifications to that configuration.

The board encourages school officials, teachers, school community councils, individual school patrons, and community members to bring any concerns related to the configuration of district schools to the attention of the board and superintendent at any time.

The district has set forth its specific processes for implementing this board policy through the accompanying administrative procedures.