

## **LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **BOARD POLICY**

**FA**

#### ***CONSOLIDATION OR EXPANSION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES***

The Lyon County School District recognizes that the learning environment of students is greatly impacted by the overall enrollment of students at a school and the capability and capacity of the facilities at that school to adequately accommodate them. The Lyon County School District also recognizes its responsibility as a publicly-funded entity to be responsible stewards of taxpayer funds and efficiently allocate resources to best meet the primary goals of educating the students of the District.

A determination of whether the District should consolidate, close, or expand a school facility will be based upon a reasoned analysis by the District as to the long-term enrollment projections, the age of the facility, the cost of operating the facility, and the impact on the learning environment. If a determination is made to consolidate or close a school facility, the District will follow the provisions of NRS 393.080 in implementing this determination.

While it is certainly possible to identify a school for consolidation, closure or expansion solely on that school site's enrollment numbers and establish bright lines, it is not practical as enrollment figures are one variable that cannot be considered separately from the other variables listed.

**Ref:**

**NRS 393.080**

Policy # FA

Adopted 10/23/12

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*CONSOLIDATION OR EXPANSION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS*

**Criteria**

When evaluating the need to consolidate, close or expand a school, the following criteria will be used prior to a decision being made:

1. The possible effects of school consolidation, closure or expansion on the educational opportunities available to the students in that school, and the effect on other schools within the District if the decision is to consolidate or close. 2. Enrollment and population patterns and projections for the attendance area and the District as a whole. For purposes of this section, the patterns and projections developed should represent a minimum of five (5) years in advance. 3. Information available to the school board regarding future residential or

commercial/industrial developments in the community. 4. The effects of consolidation, closure or expansion on the costs of providing educational services to the students affected, especially if closure or expansion cannot be completed during non-instructional periods. 5. The effects of consolidation, closure or expansion on the community.

**Expansion**

Should the District reach the conclusion that expansion of facilities is needed at a school site, the expansion will be based upon simplicity of design; sound economics, including low long-range maintenance costs, operation costs, and low insurance rates; high educational utility; and flexibility.

A school shall be considered in need of expansion if, during the process of evaluation using the above-listed criteria, it is determined that a school will meet or exceed 110% of capacity by the end of the forecasted five-year period.

If a school does not meet that targeted enrollment, it shall also be considered in need of expansion if the student square foot ratio falls below 100 square feet per student during that same forecasted period. 30% of the square footage used in this calculation will be based upon non-instructional or administrative space. Facility age and efficiency will also be included in the calculations.

The priority of construction authorization shall be as follows:

1. Regular classrooms and essential service units for their efficient operation. 2. Special classrooms. 3. Multipurpose units. 4. Any other units.

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### **Consolidation or Closure**

A school shall be considered for consolidation with a neighboring school or closure if, during the process of evaluation using the above-listed criteria, it is determined that a school will fall below 65% of preferred capacity by the end of the forecasted five-year period.

Should a school be considered for consolidation or closure, the District will notify staff members in writing at the affected sites no later than January of the school year prior to the proposed consolidation or closure date. The District will also make every effort pursuant to NRS 393.080 to notify the public, including but not limited to notices posted at the affected school sites and notice in the paper of record at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which consolidation or closure will be discussed by the Board.