



FAQ - Rising Together for Better Schools Initiative

Why is the district closing schools?

The decision to close schools is driven by several factors, primarily focused on ensuring student safety, delivering high-quality education, and responsible stewardship of taxpayers' dollars. Many of the schools facing closure have significant safety issues, are drastically underperforming academically, and cannot be brought up to basic standards without substantial financial investments, when other buildings are equipped with space for students.

How were the schools selected for closure?

The closure decision was made following a thorough evaluation process. Factors considered included facility conditions, operational costs, student population, and academic performance data. The district worked collaboratively with state and local officials, the Department of Education, and the Board of Education to assess each school's viability and impact on the community.

What will happen to the students currently attending the closed schools?

Efforts are underway to ensure minimal disruption to student education. Transportation will be provided, and plans are in place to relocate students to alternative schools with high-quality instruction and safe learning environments. Additionally, resources will be allocated to support special education students and provide expanded adult-learning options.

Will there be layoffs?

Like many of the other districts around us, we will have to reduce our staff and we will do so strategically. We will do most of this through attrition, by not refilling vacant positions and from retirements. We will not be laying off staff this school year. We will honor our contract.

Why is ADA compliance important?

ADA (The Americans Disability Act) compliance is crucial to ensure equal access and opportunities for all students, staff, and visitors. Non-compliance can create barriers for individuals with disabilities, hindering their ability to navigate and participate in educational environments effectively. By prioritizing ADA compliance, the district demonstrates its commitment to inclusivity and equity for all members of the community.

Why is student data important in the decision-making process?

Student data provides valuable insights into academic performance, allowing educators and administrators to identify areas of strength and areas in need of improvement. By analyzing student data, the district can make informed decisions to address academic challenges, allocate resources effectively, and ensure that all students receive a high-quality education. Additionally, student data helps track progress over time and measure the effectiveness of interventions and educational initiatives. It serves as a critical tool for accountability and continuous improvement within the educational system.



What specific literacy rates and math scores led to the decision to close schools?

The decision to close schools was informed by alarming literacy rates and math scores within the district. For example, literacy scores indicate that the district is in the 30th percentile, signifying that a significant portion of students are functionally illiterate. In terms of math proficiency, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards ranged from only 5.61 percent to 7.14 percent at the affected schools. These concerning academic indicators underscore the urgent need for intervention and restructuring to ensure all students have access to high-quality education.

Why is the district considered low-performing?

The district's low performance is multifaceted and stems from various factors, including systemic challenges, resource constraints, and socio-economic disparities. Academic achievement is influenced by numerous complex factors both inside and outside of the classroom, such as poverty, inadequate resources, limited access to quality educational opportunities, and societal inequities. Addressing these underlying issues requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes equity, resources, and targeted interventions to support student success. The district is committed to implementing strategic initiatives to improve academic outcomes and create a more equitable learning environment for all students.