

What data do we need to provide to make an informed decision on a potential school consolidation? When gathering data to help a community decide on school closures or consolidations, it's important to provide a comprehensive view of the factors involved. Here are some ideas to start your table discussion:

1. **Enrollment Trends:**
 - Historical and projected enrollment data for the schools in question.
 - Demographic changes in the community (e.g., birth rates, housing developments, migration patterns).
 - Enrollment capacity vs. actual attendance in each school.
2. **Financial Data:**
 - The operating costs of each school (e.g., staffing, utilities, maintenance).
 - Potential savings from consolidating or closing schools.
 - Impact of state and federal funding tied to student enrollment (per-pupil funding).
3. **Building Conditions:**
 - Physical condition of each school building (age, required renovations, safety compliance).
 - Costs associated with maintaining or upgrading facilities.
 - Capacity to accommodate additional students if schools are consolidated.
4. **Academic Performance:**
 - Student achievement data, such as standardized test scores and graduation rates, for the schools in question.
 - The potential impact on student outcomes if schools are consolidated (e.g., access to better resources or specialized programs).
5. **Transportation and Accessibility:**
 - Distance and travel time for students to attend a new school if closures occur.
 - Transportation costs and logistical issues (e.g., bus routes).
 - Impact on families, particularly for those with limited transportation options.
6. **Community Impact:**
 - How school closures or consolidations would affect the local community (e.g., economic impact, loss of a community hub).
 - Feedback from community surveys, focus groups, or public meetings.
 - Input from key stakeholders such as parents, teachers, and local businesses.
7. **Alternative Options:**
 - Other possible solutions to address enrollment declines or financial challenges (e.g., repurposing buildings, sharing services with nearby districts).
 - Impact on class sizes and teacher-to-student ratios.

Other ideas:

1. How far will my student need to travel - boundaries for new schools.
2. How much will we save by consolidating, what expenses are eliminated and what stays.
3. What will we do with the building? Will we have a cost to maintain the empty buildings, what is that cost?

