

Board File: FCB

SCHOOL CLOSURE, CONSOLIDATION, AND/OR RELOCATION

The Douglas County School District Board of Education (the “Board”) endeavors to operate schools in an instructionally and economically sound manner that best serves the Douglas County School District’s mission, vision, values, and strategic plan.

In doing so, the Board of Education and Superintendent will consider the short- and long-term needs of students and the related interests of impacted families, staff, and community as they support students.

As populations mature or shift within the District and/or certain schools become impacted by diminishing economies of scale resulting in curricular and student programming challenges, among others, the operation of these schools may no longer be feasible in a manner that provides thriving school experiences for District students.

The Board may consolidate, close, and/or relocate schools in conjunction with realigning school boundaries (per policy JC) as necessary. The Board may also assess whether school buildings are needed for their original purpose or should be put to different use to benefit the District and its students. The Board maintains these powers under State law.

“School closure” means the act or process of closing a school.

“School consolidation” means the act or process of pairing two or more schools into a single school within one school building.

“Relocate” means the permanent movement and re-establishment of a school at a different location.

When considering whether to recommend the closure, consolidation, and/or relocation of a school, the Superintendent or designee(s), will conduct a comprehensive study, including an analysis of certain criteria and considerations to be set out in Superintendent File Policy FCB-R. Policy FCB-R will also provide for practices for staffing and accommodation of special education needs among other operational and student programming necessities, insofar as such practices do not violate state and federal law.

School closure, consolidation, and/or relocation processes will take place in a public and transparent manner. These processes will include information sessions for parents, staff, and community (stakeholders) such that they are afforded the opportunity to reasonably assess pertinent information, have time to ask questions and provide input ahead of any final decision(s) by the Board, and to adequately plan/adjust if their school is impacted.

Stakeholder engagement will be designed to respond to the needs of the impacted community. The Superintendent will communicate with stakeholders through periodic meetings which set out information and include gathering feedback. In addition, the Superintendent will facilitate the creation of targeted study groups for the purpose of providing information, assessing needs,

receiving input, and engaging in problem solving conversations related to stakeholder realities, questions, and concerns.

The Board shall be given notice of the date when this process will be implemented which shall start no less than 240 days prior to the anticipated date of change. To allow families and staff to adjust to any school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation, the Superintendent will bring any initial recommendation to the Board regarding a school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation at a scheduled Board meeting no less than 120 days prior to the effective date of the proposed change.

The Board will hear public comment during, at minimum, two public Board meetings with school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation on the meeting agenda prior to taking action on the recommendation(s). The Board may take action during the same meeting where the second public comment session has taken place.

The Board of Education delegates authority to the Superintendent to establish a district policy addressing implementation processes and procedures related to school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation. Such policy shall be consistent with the timelines, interests, and general processes set out herein and will be located at Superintendent File Policy FCB-R.

Adopted: February 11, 2025

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. §22-32-110

CROSS REFS.:

JC, School Attendance Areas

JCA/JFB, Assignment of Students to Schools, School Choice and Open Enrollment

JCA/JFB-R, Assignment of Students to Schools, School Choice and Open Enrollment