

Date: 08/05/2025

To: Salt Lake City School District Board of Education

Dr. Elizabeth Grant, Superintendent of Schools

From: Dr. Analis Carattini-Ruiz, Associate Superintendent

Brian Conley, G-5 Policy Administrator

Subject: District Reconfigurations and Long-Term Closures

Purpose

In alignment with our commitment to fiscal responsibility and our mission to provide excellent and equitable education for every student, we present the following recommendations for the Board's consideration. These proposals are guided by the Salt Lake City School District's G-5 Policy and Administrative Procedures.

Recommendations for Consideration

We respectfully request the Board's approval to initiate the G-5 process to study the following proposals:

1. **School Closure**
 - Closure of Innovations Early College High School
2. **Special Enrollment Program Closure**
 - Closure of the Grade 6 Magnet Program at Washington Elementary School
3. **Grade-Level Reconfiguration**
 - Reconfiguration of grade levels at Nibley Park School

Requested Board Actions

We request the Board to:

- Approve the study of Innovations Early College High School for potential closure.

- Approve a study of the Washington Magnet special enrollment program for potential closure, in accordance with Board Policy G-5 and Utah Code §53G-4-402(23) that now requires a board vote to close a school program.
- Direct staff to move forward with further study of grade-level reconfiguration for Nibley Park for the 2026-27 school year
- Direct staff to hold recommended information sessions

Attachment

- Salt Lake City School District Study Recommendations Presentation

August 5, 2025

Recommendations Regarding Grade-Level Reconfiguration & Long-Term Closures following Policy G-5



Our aim is to build vibrant learning communities and use resources efficiently for student learning

Students are better served in a robust learning community with multiple classes per grade – this can be achieved even with a decreasing student population

Yearly monitoring of boundaries, configurations, and programs leading to data-based actions will support our continued focus on student learning



Recommendation to Study Innovations Early College High School for Potential Long- term Closure

Process for the Closure of an Alternative or Non-traditional School

Any alternative or non-traditional school will be evaluated for closure using criteria specific to that site, such as whether the school is still serving its intended purpose, its enrollment, and whether it is fiscally responsible to maintain that site (G-5).

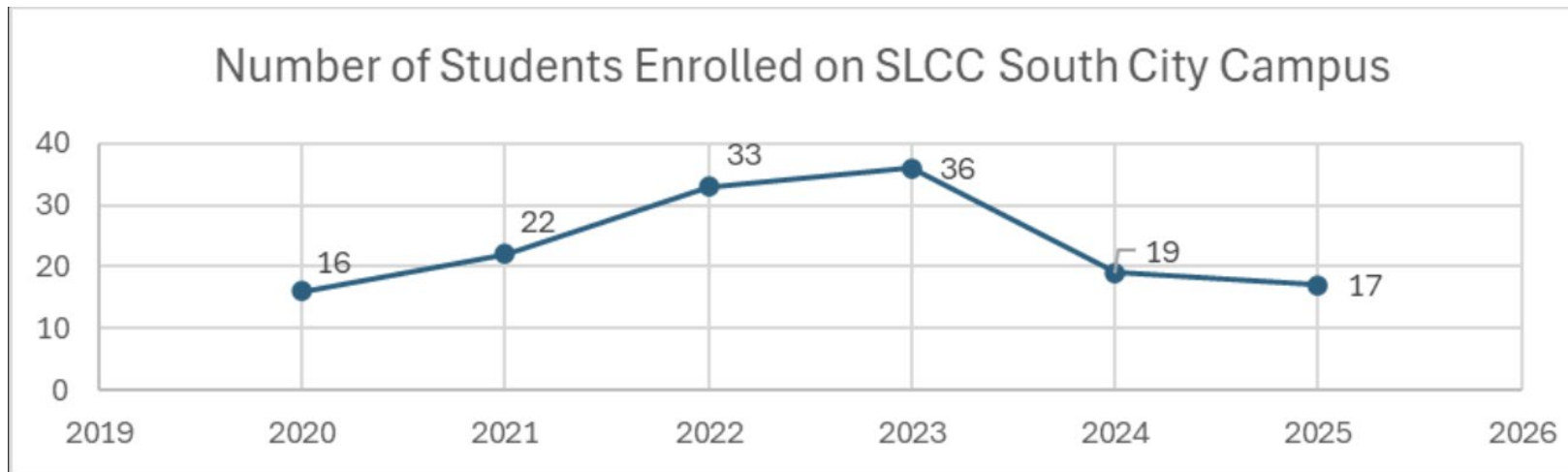
Date	Activity
Aug 05, 2025	Initial proposal presented to Board. Board motion to initiate closure process and send notifications.
Aug 05, 2025	Notifications sent to affected parents and stakeholders.
Aug 06, 2025	In-depth study begins.
Aug 06–Nov 03, 2025	Information session held (number and location determined by Board).
Oct 07, 2025	Study available for public review and study and summary distributed to schools and SCCs.
Oct 21, 2025	First public comment opportunity in board meeting.
Nov 03, 2025	Second public comment opportunity in board meeting.
Nov 03, 2025	Public Hearing held with 30-day and 10-day notices.
Nov 18, 2025	Board vote on school closure.
Dec 02, 2025	Open enrollment begins.

Innovations Early College High School Background

- The Innovations program was established to reengage students who had disengaged from traditional high schools or had not enrolled at all, including those who were homeschooled or enrolled in full-time online programs.
- Initially, Innovations operated as a blended learning model, combining face-to-face instruction with a web-based digital curriculum delivered by classroom teachers.
- The model was also to provide access to on-campus concurrent enrollment opportunities for our students.

Rationale

- The district recommends a comprehensive review of Innovations Early College High School to assess whether it continues to fulfill its original mission of offering a unique instructional model. Preliminary data indicates that the school may no longer be meeting this purpose. For example:
- Low enrollment (anticipated to fall below 120 students)
- Limited utilization of on-campus SLCC concurrent enrollment courses



Requested Actions:

- Approve a motion to study Innovations Early College High School for potential closure and to initiate the district sending the required notifications in accordance with state law
- Direct staff to hold one information session for stakeholders at Innovations Early College High School



Recommendation to Study the Magnet Special Enrollment Program at Washington Elementary for Potential Closure

Process for the Closure of a Special Enrollment Program

Proposed closure of a special enrollment program will follow the school closure process outlined in Section II of G-5: Administrative Procedures

Date	Activity
Aug 05, 2025	Initial proposal presented to Board. Board motion to initiate closure process and send notifications.
Aug 05, 2025	Notifications sent to affected parents and stakeholders.
Aug 06, 2025	In-depth study begins.
Aug 06–Nov 03, 2025	Information session held (number and location determined by Board).
Oct 07, 2025	Study available for public review and study and summary distributed to schools and SCCs.
Oct 21, 2025	First public comment opportunity in board meeting.
Nov 03, 2025	Second public comment opportunity in board meeting.
Nov 03, 2025	Public Hearing held with 30–day and 10–day notices.
Nov 18, 2025	Board vote on school closure.
Dec 02, 2025	Open enrollment begins.

Washington Magnet Program Background and Rationale

- Washington was originally opened as a three-year pilot program
- Board discussions last year led to non-renewal of this pilot
- 6th grade will be the last grade of the Magnet students in 2025–26

Requested Actions:

- Approve the study of Washington Magnet special enrollment program for potential closure and to initiate the district sending the required notifications in accordance with state law
- Direct staff to hold one information session for stakeholders at Washington Elementary School



**Recommendation to
Reconfigure
Nibley Park
Elementary
School
as an Elementary
School
Rather than a K-8
School**

Process for Grade Reconfiguration at a School

- If the district determines that the grade levels being served within a school should be adjusted, the superintendent will make the applicable recommendation to the board
- Any recommendation must be made at least 60 days prior to any board action on the proposed reconfiguration
- If the recommendation has the support of the board, the board will hold one public comment period during an upcoming board meeting to gather public input on the recommendation

Date	Activity
August 05, 2024	Initial proposal to reconfigure grade levels presented to the board. Board indicates support for recommendation.
Aug 06-Nov 03, 2025	Information session held (number and location determined by Board).
October 07, 2024	Deadline for superintendent to formally recommend reconfiguration.
November 03, 2024	Public comment period held during board meeting.
November 18, 2025	Final decision on reconfiguration made.

Nibley Park Background:

The Middle Level Review Group Report, presented at the February 18, 2025 Board Meeting, identified concerns with the current K–8 configuration at Nibley Park. For example:

Limited access to a full core curriculum for grades 7–8 due to low enrollment (fewer than 70 students), resulting in reduced course offerings

Music, fine arts, PE, and STEM are delivered using an elementary model, limiting instructional depth appropriate for middle grades

No access to honors, accelerated math courses, or world language instruction

Students are not receiving equitable learning opportunities compared to peers in other middle-grade settings

YEAR (OCT 1 COUNT)	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	TOTAL
2007	30	X	30
2008	38	28	66
2009	44	41	85
2010	64	45	109
2011	45	53	98
2012	54	38	92
2013	38	54	92
2014	38	37	75
2015	33	35	68
2016	27	31	58
2017	30	25	55
2018	33	31	64
2019	33	34	67
2020	29	33	62
2021	31	26	57
2022	17	39	56
2023	32	25	57
2024	43	27	70

History of Grade 7–8 Enrollment at Nibley Park

The planning for Nibley Park in the years prior to 2007 envisioned a robust 7th and 8th grade program with 150+ students and 8+ faculty.

2025–2026 anticipated enrollment:
64 students

Nibley Park School Rationale

Nibley Park's enrollment has not supported staffing a full team of highly qualified secondary teachers to meet state course requirements.

Nibley Park's 7th and 8th grade students reside within the Hillside Middle School boundaries. Many of these students choose to attend a traditional middle school rather than remain at Nibley Park.

Requested Actions:

- Direct staff to move forward with further study of grade-level reconfiguration for Nibley Park for the 2026–27 school year
- Direct staff to hold one information session for stakeholders at Nibley Park School

Summary of Action Requests:

- Approve the study of Innovations Early College High School for potential closure.
- Approve the study of Washington Magnet special enrollment program for potential closure.
- Direct staff to move forward with further study of grade-level reconfiguration for Nibley Park for the 2026–27 school year.
- Direct staff to hold recommended information sessions



Discussion