



**GWINNETT
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Level: Policy F-Facility Expansion Program	Accompanying Procedure:	Descriptor Code: FD	Rescinds NEW
Descriptor Term: Long Term Facilities Planning		Effective Date:	

Keywords:
Student Discipline:
Policy References:

Purpose

The Gwinnett County Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to providing educational environments that are conducive to high quality educational experiences for all students and teachers. To ensure all school facilities meet this goal, this policy establishes expectations for Gwinnett County Public Schools (“GCPS”) to conduct the following practices:

1. Long-term forecasts of future enrollment and capacity needs.
2. Educational specifications that align school facilities with the instructional and curricular needs of students while considering available resources.
3. Facilities condition and educational assessments to systematically and equitably analyze school and district facility needs.
4. District facility master planning that prioritizes and addresses the needs of all schools and support facilities.

Projecting School Capacity Needs

On an annual basis, five-year enrollment projections shall be developed and reported to the Board in a public meeting using research-based methodology including but not limited to factors such as projected matriculation of grade cohorts, enrollment trends, housing developments and associated enrollment impact, and historical and projected birth rates.

In conjunction with the enrollment projections, GCPS shall report to the Board in a public meeting current and projected available capacity needs for all schools over the next five years. The report shall include current and forecasted capacity utilization of school facilities, disaggregated by school and cluster, temporary use of trailers, potential redistricting plans, potential consolidation plans, and planned new construction to address needs. Capacity utilization should be reviewed annually with GCPS instructional leadership and shared with building level leadership to confirm prior to reporting to the Board.

Educational Specifications

GCPS shall develop and maintain educational specifications for each grade level configuration that meet

or exceed the requirements of the Georgia Department of Education and strive to maintain specifications that provide students with the highest quality educational experiences possible within reasonable resource limitations of the district. As part of the process for developing educational specifications, GCPS should solicit feedback regarding physical space that can best accommodate the holistic needs of all students, including but not limited to student well-being (e.g., physical, mental and socioemotional health), neurodivergent students, newcomer students, and the multicultural community served by the district.

Educational specifications shall be approved by the Board, with opportunity for public comment, no less frequently than every five years in alignment with a capital planning process and should be used to guide the design of all new schools, additions, and/or modifications to educational facilities. The Board acknowledges that it may not always be possible to fully meet educational specifications through the renovation of existing facilities, due to physical design limitations or associated cost / benefit analysis.

Following the completion of newly constructed facilities in accordance with the educational specifications, a review of a new facility will be conducted, including solicitation of holistic input from district stakeholders, including but not limited to teachers, leaders, staff and students who have experience in the new facility, as well as subject matter experts (e.g., culture, disabilities, mental health, safety, etc.) to determine if any future changes in educational specifications or designs may be necessary. Findings from these reviews should be considered during the next review of the educational specifications and presented to the Board in a public meeting prior to Board approval of changes to the educational specifications.

Facility Conditions and Needs Assessments

An objective condition assessment of all GCPS facilities shall be conducted every five years to identify and prioritize the needs of school and district facilities. This assessment shall include current and projected capital renewal, hazard remediation, and physical safety needs based upon condition deficiencies, compliance with life safety, building codes, and projected life cycles of facility infrastructure.

In addition, educational assessments should be performed every five years to evaluate each school's compliance with educational specifications and identify additional program needs.

District Facility Master Plan

A District Facility Master Plan ("FMP") shall be developed and approved by the Board every five years in alignment with the Georgia Department of Education Local Facility Plan and Board resolutions or referendums to fund or finance proposed capital investments. The FMP shall include plans for new construction or renovation of school facilities, aligned with enrollment and capacity projections, along with capital renewal needs of existing facilities. As part of the process for developing the FMP, GCPS should conduct community engagement activities across geographic areas to solicit input on practical scenarios for addressing facility conditions, educational needs, and facility utilization. The FMP should outline and prioritize needs based upon the relative conditions of facilities, educational needs of students, equity in access to educational programs, projected overcrowding by geographic area, and other relevant factors that may be identified during the planning process.

The FMP shall include estimated high-level scopes for recommended projects and programs. The Board shall strive to provide the necessary funding for implementing the FMP through referendums or other available means. FMP elements funded or financed through a referendum shall be reported on an annual basis to the Board in a public meeting as a part of a capital plan update. All associated information shall be reported and updated on the GCPS website and be made easily accessible to the public.