Capacity and Utilization Calculations for 2026-27 Consolidation Considerations:

Process: The methodology below was provided to and reviewed by the Board in May and June prior to moving forward with calculations. The adjustments honor the language of the Board resolution.

The resolution signed by the Board communicated that utilization rate for the sake of the resolution would be calculated in the following manner: "(2) the Districtwide average kindergarten through fifth grade school building utilization rate is less than 75% (excluding specialized schools and programs (Park, Rice, STEP and RISE) and using the SDRP III building capacities and calculation method)".

This language in the resolution requires an adjustment in our calculations to allow the exclusion of Park, Rice, STEP and RISE). To exclude STEP and RISE, we need agreement on the methodology. Below is our recommended shift for consistency:

1. Calculate capacity two ways for each building and use the lower of the two:
    a. By classroom square footage, using Cordogan Clark's guidelines (48 sq ft per student in kindergarten, 36 sq ft per student in grades 1-8).
    b. By number of classrooms (subtract STEP and RISE classrooms), multiplied by our DEC class size guidelines (23 in K-2, 25 in 3-5, 28 in 6-8).
2. For RISE and STEP, subtract the student rooms and one classroom for clinician space for up to three student classrooms.
3. Subtract the RISE/STEP classrooms and clinician classroom(s) from the **TOTAL** number of classrooms in the building.
4. During SDRP III used classroom multiples of 6 to allow for consistent classroom sections which is ideal for school leadership (A K-5 strand requires 6 classrooms). We looked at schools with extra classrooms (ie. 15 instead of 12) for specialized program placement. Since programs are placed, we now include all remaining classrooms in our calculations that exceed 550 square feet.
5. Each building had one classroom removed from the count for use as an arts space.

Calculated utilization percentages represent a mathematical headcount relative to maximum capacity. However, calculated utilization is only one component of facility planning and does not fully convey a building's actual operational limits.

Specialized program placements (e.g., ACC and TWI) may introduce structural space constraints that cause a building to reach functional capacity even when its calculated utilization percentage appears to be less than fully utlized.