

PLANNING FOR FACILITY NEEDS

Policy Code: 9000

A. Principles

The Guilford County Board of Education strives to provide safe, orderly, and inviting schools for students and staff. The board also strives to provide other facilities needed to support the educational program. Long-range facility planning by the Board and Superintendent is essential for providing a physical environment that offers students the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and that supports student success.

B. Long-Range Facility Plan

The Board will adopt a Long-Range Facility Plan that identifies the needs of the school system and sets forth a plan for how to meet these needs. The plan will address the issue of whether to renovate existing facilities or build new facilities. The plan also will incorporate, where appropriate, creative options for meeting the needs of the educational program.

C. Process

The following information will be considered in developing and adopting a Long-Range Facility Plan:

1. data that reflect the possibility of enrollment declines or increases as well as other demographic changes in the population of students that is or may be served;
2. the status of relations with the total community and projected developments in those relationships over the years;
3. the changing needs of the school system's educational program;
4. best practices and minimum requirements for protecting the safety and welfare of students and employees;
5. a facilities inventory that includes the size of sites, building capacities, age of buildings, energy consumption, ability to utilize technology, the suitability of the space for its current or future purpose, and accessibility by the community;
6. the availability or anticipated availability of innovations in construction or design that would allow existing buildings to be renovated or new facilities to be constructed at a lower cost, in a more energy-efficient manner, or in a way that would better meet the needs of the educational program;
7. the relationship between projected new facilities and those already in existence;
8. community planning, zoning, and local ordinance requirements; and
9. the financial ability of the school system.

The Superintendent may utilize the services of consultants to obtain information necessary for the long-range facility planning process. Staff, families and community stakeholders should be involved in considering the needs for new and renovated facilities when appropriate.

The Board will work with the Board of County Commissioners, when possible, in developing a multi-year capital outlay plan. The Board and Superintendent will endeavor to communicate with

other governmental bodies and the public in a positive and persuasive manner about the need for school construction and, consequently, the need for necessary funding.

In the instance that the long-range facility plan suggests a need to consolidate or close schools, the Superintendent and the Board shall provide for public hearings according to state law. Any boundary changes or changes to choice schools and programs will be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board pursuant to [policy 4150 School Assignment](#) and [policy 3104 Choice Schools and Programs](#).

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -72, -204, -276, -426.2, -521, -524, -530; 143-128.1C(1), -129; 153A-164; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997)

Cross References: Board Authority and Duties (policy 1010); Choice Schools and Programs (policy 3104); School Assignment (policy 4150)

Adopted: TBD, 2024