Policy FC: SCHOOL CLOSINGS, CONSOLIDATIONS AND REORGANIZATIONS

Status: ADOPTED

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When considering the matter of permanently closing, consolidating or reorganizing schools within the district, it is the intent and desire of the board of education to provide students with high quality academic opportunities in a supportive educational atmosphere, ensure maintenance and enhancement of program options, and accommodate demographic demands and financial constraints.

The board may permanently or temporarily close, consolidate, or reorganize a school for any reason including, but not limited to:

1. Efficiency – Enrollment has declined or the space available at a school or schools in close proximity is not being used in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

2. Physical condition of building – The physical condition of the school building makes continued operation of the site cost-prohibitive or continued occupancy of the site unsafe or impractical.

3. Alternative use of school facilities – The board may close a school to use its facilities for other programmatic/educational purposes, for support services, to open a new school or to expand an existing school.

4. Change in educational focus – The board may determine that a school closure, consolidation, or reorganization is necessary to address the educational needs of students such as by implementing new curricula or instructional programs.

Process for School Closings, Consolidations, and Reorganizations

Before any facility is permanently closed, the board will convene a hearing, or a series of hearings if appropriate, to elicit public comment regarding the proposed action. The superintendent or designee will develop procedures for the conduct of the public hearings. Before any school closing, consolidation, or reorganization is proposed, the superintendent's staff shall prepare an impact analysis setting forth:

1. Possible alternatives to the proposed action, including maintenance of the status quo.

2. The projected impact that each alternative would have on each school affected by such action.

3. Enrollment data for the current school year and three-year enrollment projections for all schools affected by the proposed action.

After approval by the board, the superintendent shall be responsible for the orderly closing, consolidation or reorganization of the school.

Reassignment of Students from Closed, Consolidated, or Reorganized Schools

When a school is permanently closed, the students will be reassigned to a school or schools with available space that can meet their educational needs. If a school closing requires that the attendance boundaries of any school receiving students be redrawn, they shall be redrawn in a manner that facilitates equitable and appropriate reassignment. Physical proximity to the school will also be considered. Students may apply for enrollment at a school or schools other than the school to which they are reassigned in accordance with board policy and subject to space availability and the admissions criteria of such school(s).

Reassignment of Employees Assigned to Closed, Consolidated, or Reorganized Schools

Teachers, administrators and other employees at schools permanently closed, consolidated, or reorganized pursuant to this policy shall be reassigned by the superintendent in accordance with board policy and law. If the closing, consolidation or reorganization requires the district to eliminate positions, those positions will be eliminated in accordance with board policy and law.

Planning Commission Submission

The district will submit any building closing proposal to the planning commission that has adopted a city plan pursuant to Missouri law. If the commission does not approve the district's proposal, the board will meet to consider an override of the commission's decision.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
§ 168.124, RSMo.	State Statute
§ 177.073, RSMo.	State Statute
§ 177.091, RSMo.	State Statute
§§ 89.300-.491, RSMo.	State Statute
MO COURT	Sch. Dist. of Springfield R-12 v. City of Springfield, 174 S.W.3d 653 (Mo. Ct. App. 2005)

MSIP	Description
L-7	MSIP STANDARDS

Cross References	Description
DN-2	SURPLUS DISTRICT PROPERTY
DN-2-AP(1)	SURPLUS DISTRICT PROPERTY - (Urban and Metropolitan Districts and Districts, Located Totally or Partially within St. Louis County)
GCI	PROFESSIONAL STAFF REASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS
GCI-AF(1)	PROFESSIONAL STAFF REASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS - (Request for Transfer)
GCPA	REDUCTION IN PROFESSIONAL STAFF WORK FORCE
GCPA-AP(1)	REDUCTION IN PROFESSIONAL STAFF WORK FORCE - (Instructional Personnel)
GDI	SUPPORT STAFF REASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS
GDI-AF(1)	SUPPORT STAFF REASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS - (Request for Transfer)
JCB	TRANSFERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT
JCB-AP(1)	TRANSFERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT - (Transfers under Federal Law)
JCB-AF(1)	TRANSFERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT - (Application for Change in School Assignment)