

Closure of Facilities

Prior to the closure of a school facility for instructional purposes, the Board of Directors will have the Superintendent or designee prepare a written summary containing an analysis as to the effects of the proposed school closure.

The written analysis shall consider:

1. Impact to other district schools and facilities
2. Impact to district educational program offerings, transportation, and
3. Financial impacts of the closure
4. Impact on student services and support

The Board recognizes that the closing of any school creates waves of impact throughout the community. Collecting input from citizens before closing a school ensures that decisions are made with transparency and trust. During the ninety-day (90) period before the district's final decision on any proposed school closure, the Board will conduct one or more hearings to receive testimony on any issues related to the closure of a school, requiring separate hearings for each school which is proposed to be closed. The hearing(s) will occur no sooner than ten (10) business days after the analysis is made public. Each hearing notice will be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation that serves the area where the school is located, as well as the district website. The last notice will be published at least seven days prior to the hearing. The notice will contain the date, time, place and purpose of the hearing. Comments received from interested parties will be used for advisory purposes only. The final determination of whether a facility will be closed or remain open will be made by the Board.

In addition to the process above, the Board of Directors has the authority to close a school building when an unforeseen natural event or mechanical failure causes a facility to become unsafe, unhealthy, inaccessible, or inoperable.

Legal References:

RCW 28A.150.290(2) State superintendent to make rules and regulations — Unforeseen conditions or actions to be recognized — Paperwork limited
RCW 28A.320.010 Corporate powers
RCW 28A.335.020 School Closures — Policy of citizen involvement required — Summary of effects — Hearings — Notice

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