

Superintendent File: FCB-R

SCHOOL CLOSURE, CONSOLIDATION, AND/OR RELOCATION – IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Basis of Potential School Closures, Consolidations, and/or Relocation

To help ensure a thriving educational environment as much as possible, the Superintendent will rely on indicators including regular enrollment studies and projections in each feeder area to assess a school's staffing levels, programming, and maintenance conditions to determine whether consideration of a school's closure, consolidation, and/or relocation is warranted.

Based on the study findings, the Superintendent may prepare a recommendation regarding schools which may be considered for closure and/or consolidation.

Criteria and Considerations for School Closure, Consolidation, and/or Relocation

The staff recommendation for closure, consolidation, and/or relocation will be based upon an analysis of the following criteria (in no particular order), according to the totality of the circumstances:

- Preservation of the integrity of school communities as much as possible.
- Management of traffic and safety
- Ease of access to building (e.g., traversing major roadways, crosswalks, district transportation)
- Walkability for students and families
- Maximization of school program offerings (e.g., Art, STEM, BASE)
- Proximity of potentially consolidated schools
- Current and potential building and site capacity, limitations, and possibilities
- Building condition and quality (e.g., accessibility, security, repairability, recreational opportunities)
- Current and future enrollment projections
- Preservation of feeder integrity and continuity, where possible
- Financial and logistical realities and sustainability.

In addition to accounting for the criteria identified above, the Superintendent will establish plans for and/or status updates regarding the following considerations which will be applicable to any school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation:

- Status of staffing
- Resulting class sizes
- Accommodation of programming related to special education, advanced academics, gifted education, English Language Development programming (and the status of related staff), and preschool, among others.
- Accessibility to local resources (police, fire, parks, etc.)
- The timing and process for (in no particular order):
 - Enhancements to buildings and temporary accommodations for students, if needed
 - Appropriate and timely transition conversations and activities for students and families, including individual student support where appropriate

- Future alternative use of the closing school building and related plans for upkeep and desirability for the neighborhood
- Merging of consolidated school cultures academically, socially, and emotionally
- Open enrollment (per Board Policy JCA/JFB)
- Periodic and reasonable assessment of school consolidation results
- Potential grade-level location adjustments in one or more feeders (e.g., sixth grade to middle school)
- Other material considerations that may arise.

Process

Planning and Engagement

Staff will engage with community members, parents, and staff (stakeholders) regarding the possible criteria to be used for school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation. Such engagement will provide information, solicit input, and include question and answer sessions at times and locations designed to facilitate maximum opportunity for stakeholder participation.

After these engagement efforts, the Superintendent may revisit this policy, including criteria and considerations (above), to meet stakeholder needs and circumstances.

Absent an emergency, this process should allow for enough time to maximize thoughtful decision making and, relatedly, enough time for stakeholders to reasonably become informed, provide input, and for families to adjust to any new school reality for their students. The Board shall be given notice of the date when the process will be implemented which shall start no less than 240 days prior to the anticipated date of a school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation. To allow families and staff to adjust to any school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation, the Superintendent will bring any initial recommendation to the Board regarding a school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation at a scheduled Board meeting no less than 120 days prior to the effective date of the proposed change.

Superintendent Recommendation and Continued Engagement

The Superintendent will provide an initial recommendation to the Board regarding school closure, consolidation, and/or relocation at a scheduled Board meeting with public comment. The initial recommendation will include an accounting of each of the criteria and considerations set out herein. The Board will not vote on the recommendation at this meeting.

The initial recommendation and accounting will be published to all stakeholders no less than 14 calendar days before the initial recommendation to the Board. The timing of this publication is designed to allow stakeholders reasonable time to assess pertinent information with adequate time and ability to ask questions and express concerns ahead of the initial recommendation to the Board.

District staff will be available to answer staff and family questions and concerns after the initial recommendation to the Board and before the Board vote.

Process for Consolidation(s) Effective School Year 2026-2027

Consistent with the interests and schedule outlined above, DCSD's general timeline for consolidations and any resulting closures effective in school year 2026-2027 is as follows:

- **School Year 2022-2023 and School Year 2023-2024:** Various public Board and community meetings regarding growth and decline and numerous conversations with staff and school leadership.
- **School Year 2024-2025:** Various public Board and community meetings along with numerous conversations with staff and school leadership.
- **January 2025:** Superintendent recommends policy regarding criteria and considerations for school consolidations and resulting closures.
- **April 2025:** Superintendent recommends school consolidation based upon criteria policy established in January.
- **School Year 2025-2026:** Transition year for families, students, and staff of consolidated schools to build new, consolidated school communities; substantially complete construction on receiving schools if/as needed.
- **School Year 2026-2027:** Opening of consolidated school(s).

Adopted: _____

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. §22-32-110

CROSS REFS.:

JC, School Attendance Areas

JCA/JFB, Assignment of Students to Schools, School Choice and Open Enrollment

JCA/JFB-R, Assignment of Students to Schools, School Choice and Open Enrollment