

POLICY 18 - SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

The Saskatoon Board of Education is committed to making the best use of its resources to ensure the most positive educational outcomes for its students.

If requested by the board, the director of education shall conduct a review of elementary and high school facility requirements in areas of the city specified by the board. The review may provide options with respect to possible attendance area consolidation and school closure for the efficient accommodation of students and the provision of quality education in the short and long term.

1. A review may be necessary in circumstances where the board is concerned that:
 - 1.1 due to low enrolments, the quality of education is deteriorating.
 - 1.2 due to low enrolments, where operating the school is a financial hardship.
 - 1.3 due to the deterioration of the physical plant, the safety of the children may be at-risk.
 - 1.4 repairing and maintaining the plant is cost prohibitive; or,
 - 1.5 due to budgetary constraints, cost saving measures must be considered.
2. The board will advise the school community council(s) of the study being undertaken.
3. The factors that will be considered in any report on the future use of a school shall include, but are not limited to are:
 - 3.1 the quality of education in the school;
 - 3.2 historical enrolments and projected enrolments compared to capacity over a multi-year period;
 - 3.3 physical condition of the school plant and the extent to which it complies with fire and safety regulations;
 - 3.4 capital costs required to continue to operate the plant;
 - 3.5 operating costs of the school;
 - 3.6 relocation of the students; and the human, physical, and fiscal costs of such relocation;
 - 3.7 expected enrolment, educational and other impacts on neighbouring schools;
 - 3.8 the effect of closure on the neighbourhood and surrounding neighbourhoods;
 - 3.9 transfer and effective use of staff.
4. The report shall be presented to the board in October. If options have been identified which, if adopted by the board, would result in the closure of one or more schools, the staff and the school community council shall, by the end of September, be notified of the possible implications of the review. The school community council, parent/guardian committees,

community groups, and other interested parties will be afforded an opportunity for consultation with the board prior to the end of December.

5. Upon conclusion of the consultation process, the board will, no later than January 31, make its decisions with respect to any consolidation of attendance areas and school closures.
6. Should the board resolve that consolidation of attendance areas and closure of one or more schools is to take place, the director will:
 - 6.1. Implement procedures for publicizing the board's decisions and making information available to parties who would be directly affected by the closure(s);
 - 6.2. Prepare plans for the disposition of equipment and materials located in schools cited for closure;
 - 6.3. Identify options for board consideration with respect to the disposition of the buildings and grounds occupied by schools cited for closure; and
 - 6.4. Notify the appropriate officials of the City of Saskatoon and the Ministry of Education.
7. Notwithstanding the process described above, a school may also be closed if:
 - 7.1 An unexpected decline in enrolment makes its continued operation impractical.

Legal Reference: *The Education Act, 1995, Section 87(1)w*
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