

SCHOOL CLOSURE CRITERIA

The Governing Board is committed to housing students in school facilities and school communities that effectively, efficiently and safely meet educational and fiscal program requirements for district students and their families. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a long-term facility plan (Board Policy 7110) for housing district student populations and update this plan with recommendations to the Board as student populations increase, decrease or transition from one geographic area of the district to another. The Board shall have the authority and flexibility to make decisions, in light of the Superintendent's recommendations, to alter school boundaries when necessary, thereby affecting student housing enrollment that may force the closure of a school.

Criteria for School Closure:

The Board shall apply the following criteria when considering decisions about school closure:

1. Structural hazards due to disasters or facility age create safety issues for housing students in a specific school or schools;
2. The community surrounding a school becomes unsafe for student learning or access to the school;
3. Declining enrollment decreases the student population at one or more schools to 300 or less students and/or surplus classrooms at a school are greater than classrooms housing students;
4. Decreased enrollment affects the economic resources of the district and one or more schools must be considered for closure in order to conserve and efficiently manage fiscal resources for existing students in the district;
5. School closure savings outweighs district Office closure or other facility closure savings;
6. Development of new communities or boundary shifts due to new construction, proposed freeways, or other conditions in the Santee community result in significant demographic and geographic changes in school populations.

When one or more of these conditions exist, and the Board decides to close a school, the Superintendent or his/her designee will work with the community to develop a school transition and communication plan for students and their families.

Before the Board decides to close a school, the Superintendent or designee shall investigate and report to the Board on the following areas as outlined in detail in AR 7122. This information will serve as data analysis for the administrative recommendation to close or not close a school:

SCHOOL CLOSURE CRITERIA (continued)

1. Academics
2. Asset Value
3. Boundaries
4. Capacity
5. Cost Savings
6. Economics
7. Demographics
8. Enrollment
9. Facilities
10. Parent/guardian Choice
11. Transportation
12. New Housing Developments

In cases where significant structural defects to schools and alternative school housing is immediately critical to protect student safety, the Superintendent shall make a reasonably prompt recommendation to the Board for alternative student housing. In cases where immediate student safety is not compromised, the recommendation for school closure shall be provided to the Board by no later than February of the preceding year to the anticipated school closure date. This would give the school recommended for closure time to prepare for the transitioning of students and their families to the proposed new school.

