

SCHOOL FACILITIES**CLOSING A SCHOOL**

In accordance with state statute, the Board of Education has charge of property used for school purposes. It has the further responsibility to “designate the schools which shall be attended by the various children within the school district.” In order to meet that responsibility effectively, in compliance with state and federal law, and with due regard for district resources, the Board can consider permanently closing a school. A planned school closure may result from, but not limited to, a review of the following: physical plant conditions, student achievement, racial balance, financial constraints, and building capacity.

The following procedure shall serve as a guideline to such deliberations:

1. Acting through the Superintendent and Administration, the Board shall comply with its statutory responsibility to “make a continuing study of the need for school facilities and of a long-term school building program and from time to time make recommendations based on such study to the town.”

The Superintendent shall report to the Board annually on the status of such continuing study, and such report may include a recommendation that one or more schools in Manchester be closed.

2. Upon receiving a recommendation to close a school, the Board may or may not vote to initiate a school closure review process as follows:
 - a. The Superintendent shall work in consultation with the Board to identify the school or schools under consideration for closure.
 - b. The Board shall schedule a public hearing.
 - c. At the public hearing, the Superintendent shall first be heard on his/her recommendation. The recommendation must include but not be limited to information concerning the educational, financial and local neighborhood impact related to the possible closure of that school or schools.
 - d. At the public hearing, the Superintendent shall present a proposed redistricting plan or other plan to accommodate the students potentially affected by any school closure.
 - e. At the public hearing, the Board may vote to terminate the closure review process. Should the Board not vote to terminate the school closure review process, members of the public shall then be heard on the issue.

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- f. At a public meeting following the public hearing, the Board shall deliberate the issue of school closure in light of the recommendation of the Superintendent and input from members of the public.
- g. Any school closure decision is the responsibility of the Board.

In considering such matter further, the Board shall consider the impact, if any, of the school closure on the quality of education for Manchester students; the budget; and other relevant factors, including but not limited to:

- i. The level of achievement of students in the school(s) under consideration.
 - ii. The potential benefits/detriments to such students through such closure.
 - iii. The local neighborhood impact of such closure.
 - iv. The duties of the Board under federal and state laws concerning educational reform.
 - v. The impact, if any, on the district's compliance with racial balance obligations under state law.
 - vi. The impact, if any, on the Board's budget, including but not limited to facilities maintenance costs, staffing needs and transportation costs.
 - vii. The impact of any redistricting or other plan on students whose school assignment will change as well as the impact on students in schools who will receive such students as a result of the redistricting or other plan.
5. Following such deliberations, the Board shall vote publicly on whether to close the identified school, and any such vote to close a school shall include adoption of the related redistricting plan or other plan to assure that all children in Manchester have a designated school to attend, with related transportation where necessary.

References:

Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-220, Duties of Boards of Education.

Adopted: April 11, 2011