

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

PROPERTY
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School Closing

7130 SCHOOL CLOSING

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient program of free public education and appropriate facilities to house that program. The Board further recognizes that declining enrollments, diminished resources, district reorganization, and/or other good cause may require the use of one or more district facilities for educational purposes be abandoned.

To receive approval for the closing of a school the Board shall provide the Division of Administration and Finance (Division) and the Executive County Superintendent with the following assurances:

1. The proposed closing is consistent with the district's approved LRFP because:
 - a. The school district has demonstrated that sufficient school building capacity exists to house students for the five years following the closing; or
 - b. The school district has demonstrated through a feasibility study that the benefits of undertaking new construction outweigh those of rehabilitating the school proposed for closure.
2. The use of temporary facilities in the remaining schools does not result or increase from an overall facilities shortage caused by the school closing; and
3. The re-assignment of students to other schools in the district does not produce, sustain nor contribute to unlawful segregation, separation, or isolation of student populations on the basis of race or national origin.

A request for approval from the Division for the school closing shall include the recommendation of the Executive County Superintendent. A letter of approval from the Division based on the information in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5(a) and as listed above shall be required before the school's closing.

The Division shall notify the school district in writing of its determination with respect to the requested school closing, with a copy provided to the Executive County Superintendent.
~~Prior to the closing of any facility, the Board of Education shall collect and consider appropriate information regarding pupil enrollments, the educational adequacy of school facilities, relevant safety and traffic factors, district revenues, and alternative district organizational plans. The Board will invite citizen participation in the analysis of that information and the formulation of recommendations. Information on any proposed district reorganization will be disseminated to the public, and public response will be invited by all appropriate means.~~

~~Before making a final determination to close a school, the Board must receive a letter of approval from the NJ Department of Education. To receive a letter of approval from the NJ Department of Education, the Board must provide the Division of Facilities and Transportation and the County Superintendent the following assurances, as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5:~~

~~That the proposed closing is consistent with the district's approved Long Range Facilities Plan, demonstrating that sufficient school building capacity exists to house district pupils in the five years following the closing of the school facility;~~

~~That the school closing does not create an overall facilities shortage that leads to the use of or an increase in the need for substandard spaces in the remaining schools within the district; and~~

~~That the reassignment of pupils to other schools in the district does not produce, sustain or contribute to unlawful segregation, separation or isolation of pupil populations on the basis of race or national origin.~~

N.J.S.A. ~~18A:11-1~~; 18A:20-36; 18A:33-1

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5 ~~et seq.~~

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