

POLICY 15

SCHOOL CLOSURES

The Board may from time to time be required to close existing schools to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the District. The process for the closure of schools is outlined in the Closure of Schools Regulation, Alberta Regulation 238/1997. According to provincial policy, a Board may develop and implement policies and procedures with respect to closure of schools that are not inconsistent with this Regulation.

Specifically

1. Prior to any decision on a school closure, the Superintendent shall review the current Alberta Regulation to ensure that the procedures to be followed by the Board are in compliance with provincial requirements.
2. The Board, upon receiving a referral from the Superintendent regarding the possible closure of a school or a portion of a school, shall determine, by majority vote of the Board, whether or not to proceed with further study.
3. If the Board wishes to proceed with a consideration of closure, the Board shall have the matter raised as a notice of motion at a regular meeting of the Board, and subsequently comply with the procedures specified in the Alberta Regulation dealing with school closure.
4. For purposes of referral from the Superintendent regarding possible closure of a school or a portion of a school, the following criteria must be met:
 - a. Elementary population, including ECS, is less than 35 students
 - b. Junior High population is less than 20 students
 - c. Senior High population is less than 30 students
5. The Superintendent may also refer a school or a portion of a school for possible closure if one of the criteria are met:
 - a. In a community where there are multiple schools, notwithstanding #4 above, and overall utilization over 5 years is low enough to consolidate all of the students in remaining facilities.
 - b. The cost of keeping a school in operable condition or restoring it to operable condition is deemed to be unreasonably high including circumstances necessary to safeguard the health and safety of students, staff, or public.
 - c. In response to a community initiative to reorganize the provision of educational services.
6. Discontinuation of a program of need or program of choice is not considered a closure and is outside the scope of this policy.