

RESCIND BOARD REPORT 01-0425-PO3 AND ADOPT NEW
SCHOOL CLOSURE POLICY AND CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

Rescind Board Report 01-0425-PO3 and Adopt New Policy on the Closing and Consolidation of Schools.

TEXT:

When considering the matter of closing schools or the consolidation of school facilities, it is the intent and desire of the Board of Education to provide students high quality academic opportunities in a supportive educational atmosphere. If the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) plans to recommend any school closing or consolidation, he or she shall convene a hearing to allow all interested parties to present their views. The Board will take final action on the proposed school closings or consolidations prior to the beginning of the following school year.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS FOR NON-ACADEMIC REASONS

Availability of Relocation Space. No school will be closed unless another school within a 2.5 mile radius has available space, as measured by design capacity, to relocate students from the closed school. School attendance boundaries will be redrawn to ensure that no student is required to walk more than 1/2 mile to a school site. In addition to distance, other factors will be considered, such as natural barriers (e.g., waterways, industrial complexes, streams, and wooded areas), safety hazards (e.g., multiple rail lines, expressways, railroad viaducts over one-half block long, streets of four or more lanes with heavy traffic, and certain neighborhood conditions (e.g., abandoned buildings, criminal activity, etc.))

determined by the facility's design capacity.

Schools

Students whose schools are closed should have access to an alternative school that is closed. The Board's determination of school quality may be based upon, but is not limited to: student performance on academic proficiency testing, implementation of the School Improvement Plan, dropout rate, and graduation rate.

Permitted Alternative Use of School Site

The Board may decide to use space designated for school purposes for other purposes (e.g., community center, etc.) for support services.

02-0424-PO02

F. Enrollment in Other Schools. Children from closed schools will be reassigned to the nearest neighborhood school. Parents may apply for enrollment at a school outside the child's attendance area subject to space availability.

programs and schools that **G. Students with Special Needs.** The Board shall ensure that appropriate educational services (including special education and bilingual education) are available in the

...focus, which may result in significant change in the

...transformation of a school's educational focus and student population.

...school's closure based upon the time needed to implement the

The Board will determine the duration of a school's closure based upon changes in educational focus.

SCHOOLS DUE TO ACADEMIC FAILURE

V. CRITERIA FOR CLOSING SCHOOLS

...a year and have failed to make adequate progress in correcting performance.

...probation for at least one year.

Section 1 - above

...and the Board of Education is available to assist in the performance of the school's educational

LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCILS AT CLOSED OR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

shall be dissolved when the school closes. Local School Councils in schools that are closed for any reason shall be dissolved and an election shall be conducted to establish a new Local Council. 34.2.1 of the School Reform Act, 105 Il C.S. 5/24.2.1

REASSIGNMENT AND LAYOFF OF REGULARLY CERTIFIED AND APPOINTED TEACHERS

Regularly certified and appointed teachers at schools closed pursuant to this policy shall become reassigned pursuant to the Board's policy "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Teachers pursuant to the Board's Policy".

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

STATUS: Not applicable.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: None.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

LEGAL

This policy was reviewed with the assistance of the law firm of [redacted] and is hereby approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Arne Duncan
ARNE DUNCAN

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer

Reviewed for new action:

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Noted:

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