

Board Policy 15

School Operational Viability

The Board believes that all schools be annually reviewed for their operational viability.

Specifically

1. Each year prior to November 30, the Superintendent shall present to the Board a review of the operational viability of each school.
2. The Superintendent shall include in the review of the operational viability of each school the following criteria:
 - 2.1 That the facility provides a healthy and safe environment for students, staff, and public;
 - 2.2 That the September 30 enrolment is not less than fifty percent (50%) of the facility space utilization rate as defined by the provincial government;
 - 2.3 That the school is able to deliver a fulsome education program within the framework of the provincial funding model, additional funding as would be reasonable in the next annual Division budget, and external support.
 - 2.4 That continued operation of the school facility would create excessive costs to the Division, specifically capital improvements, repairs, and utilities.
3. The Superintendent shall include in the operational viability review recommendations that address:
 - 3.1 Continuation of a school; and/or
 - 3.2 Action required to improve a school's operational viability, including the transfer of students to another facility.
4. Further, if two (2) or more of the above mentioned criteria are not met, the Superintendent may recommend a further study of the possibility of school closure.

5. The Board shall act on the school operational viability recommendations by resolution during the Board meeting at which the recommendations are presented.
6. When the Board resolves to study the possibility of school closure or the discontinuation of grade levels in a school, the Superintendent shall prepare the study which will include the information on the following:
 - 6.1 Present and projected enrolment;
 - 6.2 Education program being offered;
 - 6.3 Availability of classroom space at receiving school(s);
 - 6.4 Transportation factors;
 - 6.5 Operational costs;
 - 6.6 The age and condition of the building; and
 - 6.7 Other unique circumstances.
7. The Superintendent shall present the study to the Board at the first regular Board meeting following the presentation of the annual operational review.
8. The Board shall respond by resolution to the study at the meeting the study is presented.

Reference: Section 11, 33, 53, 62, 192, 194, 222, 248, 249 Education Act
Alberta Education Policy 1.7.2
Guide to Education
Goals and Standards Applicable to the Provision of Basic Education in Alberta