

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 15, 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 five year enrollment projections indicate the probability for adequate program delivery;
 - 2.3 That the September 30 enrollment is not less than fifty percent (50%) of the facility space utilization rate as defined by the provincial government;
 - 2.4 Spending per student on instruction is not more than one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the Division average per student spending; and
 - 2.5 That the school is able to deliver a basic education program that meets the needs of students served.
3. The Superintendent shall include in the operational viability review recommendations that address:
 - 3.1 Continuation of a school; and/or
 - 3.2 Action taken and further action required to improve a school's operational viability.

4. Furthermore, if two (2) or more of the above mentioned criteria are not met, the Superintendent may recommend pursuing a further study of the possibility of school closure or the discontinuation of grade levels in a school.
5. The Board shall act on the school operational viability recommendations by Board 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 Distance involved in transporting students to receiving school(s);
 - 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 and any related recommendations to the Board at the second regular Board meeting following the presentation of the annual operational viability review.

Reference: Sections 58, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Alberta Education Policy 1.7.2
Guide to Education
Goals and Standards Applicable to the Provision of Basic Education in Alberta