

School Capacity Mitigation

The Board recognizes that at certain times, because of inadequate funding for capital construction of new schools or for expansion of existing schools, and/or extremely rapid growth, it may become necessary to mitigate overcrowding at district schools. It is the general philosophy of the Board that overcrowding situations be considered on an individual basis. Each decision shall be evaluated based on the impacts related to safety, student achievement, cost, efficiency, building and site characteristics, programming needs of the community and the direct or indirect impacts on staff.

Mitigation procedures

The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the development of specific mitigation procedures which shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Education.

The following capacity benchmarks and mitigation procedures are not absolute. Each school must be evaluated on an individual basis. These guidelines provide a menu of options that may be considered to alleviate overcrowding in district schools, but do not represent all solutions that may, over time, become available to the school district.

When schools and grade levels in schools reach or exceed capacity – closing open enrollment

As a school or a grade level within a school reaches or exceeds available staffing levels and/or capacity, the school or grade level may be closed to additional open enrollment.

100% - 125% capacity mitigation

Portable classrooms – Capacity may be extended through the use of portable classrooms in the event it is economically feasible and adequate space exists to safely accommodate the units and the increased student population.

Programming/schedules/staffing – Capacity mitigation may include adjustments in programming, scheduling and staffing to ensure efficient utilization of staff and facilities. This may include relocation of programs and/or increases in class size. Minor adjustments in classroom configurations and interior modifications may also be considered.

125% benchmark - response to development referrals and voluntary capital mitigation

Once a school exceeds or is expected to exceed 125% of capacity with the impacts of proposed development, the district will notify the applicable community planning department that the 125% benchmark will be exceeded. The district may recommend denial of the proposed development if mitigation options are not available. Board Policy FDB, Voluntary Capital Mitigation, highlights the details of

this benchmark review and also the opportunity for voluntary capital mitigation to alleviate capacity concerns.

125% or greater - short-term mitigation

Split/staggered schedules – Capacity mitigation may include altering schedules to better utilize existing space within the facility.

Alternative utilization of facilities – Alternative site mitigation may include temporarily restructuring the traditional educational environment by moving a specific grade(s) or placing new students from schools over capacity into other district schools to maximize the utilization of district facilities and staff. This may include transporting students from neighborhood schools to alternative sites within the district.

125% or greater – long-term mitigation

Additional classrooms – In high growth areas, long-term capacity mitigation may include adding permanent classrooms to the existing structure.

Boundary changes – Board policy JCAA, School Districting/Redistricting, and JCAA-R School Boundary Change Guidelines, provide guidelines for various scenarios that would require boundary changes. In some situations boundary changes can balance enrollments at adjacent schools. Changes to existing school boundaries should be considered only when looking at long-term mitigation solutions. Adequate time and study to implement a district-wide boundary change would be required.

Year-round schedules - Implementation of year-round schedules will only be considered for long-term solutions to overcrowding. Adequate time and study to implement a year-round calendar would be required.

Adopted: May 24, 2006

Revised: October 28, 2015

CROSS REFS.: FDB, Voluntary Capital Mitigation
FEE, Site Acquisition
JCAA, School Districting/Redistricting