



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	October 1, 2026
Agenda Item:	District Priority: Preserve Financial Sustainability - School Consolidation/Closure Criteria
Item Type:	Discussion
Administrator:	Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli
Objective:	To discuss and establish the criteria that will guide the District's analysis of potential school consolidation or closure.

Background: The Medford School District has experienced ongoing enrollment decline, a trend that demographic projections indicate is likely to continue. As enrollment decreases, available resources decline while many of the fixed costs associated with operating schools remain. Over time, this creates increasing pressure on the District's ability to provide strong and equitable programming across all schools.

This conversation is a continuation of the District's broader work around long-term fiscal sustainability. Last year, the Fiscal Sustainability Study Group examined a range of considerations and strategies to help ensure the District can continue to align its resources with enrollment and student needs. That work reinforced the importance of looking beyond short-term budget reductions and considering longer-term structural changes that may be necessary as enrollment continues to decline.

The District has already taken a number of steps to respond to declining enrollment and improve fiscal sustainability, including staffing adjustments, shared services, operational efficiencies, and the recent closure of the Biddle Road district office, with staff relocated into existing District facilities. As enrollment continues to decline, the District must now consider the broader question of whether the current number and configuration of schools can be sustained while preserving high-quality educational opportunities for students.

This discussion is intended to continue that work through a thoughtful examination of school consolidation and rightsizing. **No schools have been identified for closure or consolidation, and no recommendations regarding individual schools are being presented at this time.** The first step is to establish clear criteria that would guide any future analysis and help ensure decisions are based on consistent data, District values, and the educational needs of students.

Potential criteria may include enrollment trends, building utilization and capacity, facility condition, operating costs, geography and transportation, program needs, educational opportunities, and the potential impact on students, staff, families, and neighborhoods.

Once criteria are established, the District could apply them consistently across schools, develop and evaluate potential scenarios, conduct operational and instructional feasibility reviews, engage staff, families, the Board and broader community, and ultimately bring forward recommendations for Board consideration if warranted.

The goal of this work is not simply to reduce the number of buildings the District operates. It is to ensure that resources are organized in a way that provides every student access to strong programs, appropriate supports, and a well-resourced school while maintaining the District's long-term financial sustainability.

The discussion is intended to move that work forward by asking the Board to consider: *What criteria should guide decisions regarding school consolidation or closure, what additional information is needed, and is there Board support to move forward with further analysis and community engagement?*

Additional Materials:

[Medford School District Enrollment Forecast](#)

Recommendation:

Suggested Motion: N/A