Policy 1225
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November 11, 2026

# POLICY 1225

# School Size – Elementary School

General Guidelines

A. Definitions

1. Building Capacity

   a. Building capacity is determined by multiplying the total number of available classrooms in a building by ~~25.0~~ the state average. Adjustments are made for ~~half-day kindergarten and~~ special education classrooms.

2. Available Classrooms

   a. Available classrooms are determined by taking every room in a school that is designed as a classroom and has at least 800 sq. ft.

   b. Classrooms not meeting this minimum will be utilized for prep or special classes.

3. Community

   a. Any incorporated city or any individual unincorporated area that people identify as a community will be considered a community.

4. Effective School Life

   a. The effective school life of a newly constructed building is 50-60 years. This is determined by the average life expectancy of the plumbing and electrical systems in the school. It is expected that over the course of 50-60 years boilers, roof membranes, solar panels and much of the technology hardware will be replaced at least once to maintain the effectiveness of the school. Major renovations, additions, and remodels may extend the effective life of a building if they involve the replacement or improvement of plumbing and electrical systems. Extensive renovations to sewer systems and exterior masonry may extend the effective school life further. ~~will be determined by averaging the year of original construction with all additional years of major renovations and adding 50 years to~~

~~that average. A major addition/renovation is any project that totally replaces or adds additional structure to the existing building.~~

B. Considerations

1. In all school size issues, the following should be considered as plans and decisions are considered and made:

   a. For Students

      1) If a boundary change forces a student to change schools for their 5th grade year only, ~~where possible,~~ eligible students will be ~~provided transportation to attend their previous school (if that school offers 5th grade) if they so choose~~ given priority consideration on out of boundary exemption applications.

   b. For Families

      1) Where possible, students from a given family will never be assigned to more than one elementary school. “Partnered schools” will count as one assigned school.

   c. For Communities

      1) Where possible, communities will be assigned to the same school.

C. Building Size

1. Box Elder School District will strive to have elementary schools with a target building capacity/population of ~~1,000~~ 700 students unless located in an area of the county where a smaller school is more practical. In order to achieve this, the Board will:

   a. Where feasible, increase capacity of existing buildings prior to constructing new buildings.

   b. Construct new buildings with a capacity of approximately ~~1,000~~ 700 students or the infrastructure to expand to ~~1,000~~ 700 students in the future unless located in an area of the county where a smaller school is more practical.

D. Building Age

1. School buildings reach a point at which they are no longer effective or efficient to use. Box Elder School District will strive to replace or close buildings that because of their age are unsafe, non-functional, or inefficient to operate. As a school approaches the end of its effective life the Board will:

    a. Develop a plan for the replacement of that building.

    b. Perform repairs and maintenance on the building that are required to maintain a safe environment that supports both teaching and learning. The effective school life of the building should be considered before any proactive maintenance or repair project is initiated.

E. Staffing

1. Staffing in schools with less than 100 students as well as special purpose schools will be determined based on the needs of that particular situation as determined by the superintendent or his/her designee.

2. Staffing in schools with more than 100 students will be determined by a student to teacher formula that has been established for that particular year.

F. Planning

1. Long-Range

    a. The District Administration will develop, and annually update and report to the Board, a Future Building Plan. The Plan will include projected building needs for 0-5 years, 5-10 years, and 10-20 years, ~~and 20-40 years~~ for elementary schools, intermediate schools, middle schools, and high schools in the District.

2. Ongoing

    a. In addition to long-range planning, ongoing evaluations will continue to address enrollment needs, including changes. This ongoing evaluation will include:

        1) For Declining Enrollment Schools in Multi-School Communities

            a) Whenever enrollments decline within a community with multiple schools for three straight years or for four out of five years, to the point where current students plus anticipated projected enrollments for the next five years can be housed in fewer schools by using existing available

classrooms, a school will be considered for closure. The school considered for closure will be the school:

i. That has the lowest Effective School Life in the community,

ii. With a population less than the average of all the schools in the community, and

iii. Whose closure does not eliminate the needed available classrooms to meet the criteria for closure.

2) For Increasing Enrollment Schools in Multi-School Communities

a) When an individual school reaches an enrollment of 100% of its capacity and continued growth is anticipated, the Board will change boundaries if there is available space in other schools within the community, or within close proximity. Other schools within the community, or within close proximity, will be increased to at least 90% of their capacity prior to building a new school.

b) When an individual school reaches an enrollment of 100% of its capacity and continued growth is anticipated, and space is not available at another school in the community, or within close proximity, the Board will make persistent efforts to build an additional building.

3) For Declining Enrollments in Schools in Single School Communities

a) Consideration of closure of a school in a single-school community will be based on a formula that includes:

i. Current enrollment,

ii. Cost per student as compared to other schools,

iii. Enrollment history and projection,

iv. Effective school life of building, and

v. Busing distances for current students to the building, and busing distance to other buildings with available space.

4) For Increasing Enrollments in Schools in Single-School Communities

   a) When the elementary school population within a given community or area where a school does not exist or the current school is inadequate and there is inadequate available space within a reasonable distance, the Board of Education will take action to acquire a school site and develop a plan to fund a new facility.