

McKay Elementary Closure and Consolidation Interim Superintendent's Recommendation

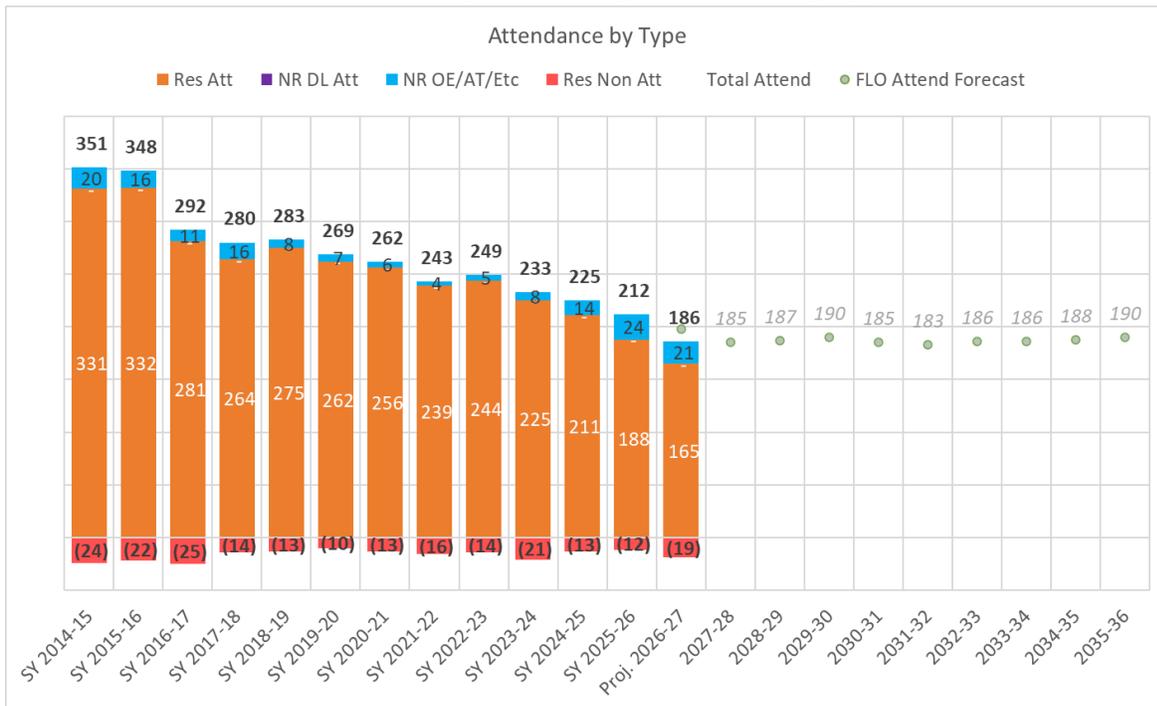
March 10, 2026

A. Introduction

McKay Elementary School has experienced a gradual yet steady decline in enrollment for more than 10 years. The district projects that for school year 2026-2027, McKay ES enrollment will be below 200 resident students. School staff shared that, given the continued decline, consolidating would best support students' educational experience. Staff emphasized that the ongoing enrollment decline makes it increasingly difficult to provide the learning environment to best support the needs of McKay students.

Chart 1 below shows McKay ES's historic total attending enrollment, disaggregated by resident and non-resident students. According to the most recent FLO Analytics 10-year forecast, if McKay were to remain open, it would maintain an enrollment below 200 students.

Chart 1: Historic and Forecast McKay Elementary Attendance by Type



The staff at McKay ES, under the guidance and leadership of Principal Erin Kollings, discussed the proposed proportional staffing model and the potential impacts to the educational and learning experience of the McKay ES student body. Principal Kollings and the staff have come to the conclusion that consolidating McKay ES with two adjacent elementary schools, Greenway ES

and Raleigh Hills ES, will have the best result for the current and future McKay ES student body's educational experience.

Principal Kollings has worked with Principal Jennifer DeMartino of Raleigh Hills ES and Principal Jennifer Whitten of Greenway ES in reviewing the potential for the McKay ES student body joining the student bodies of Raleigh Hills ES and Greenway ES. All three (3) principals have conducted community engagement with the families of each elementary school. At the end of this outreach and meeting with school staff, the principals presented a recommendation to the school board to consolidate the existing McKay ES attendance area with the Raleigh Hills ES and Greenway ES attendance areas. The end result of this recommendation is the closing of McKay ES effective SY 2026-27.

Only the school board can decide to close a school pursuant to board policy FL. The potential closure of McKay ES will also require an attendance boundary adjustment pursuant to board policy JC. This report provides the information for the board's consideration to accept the recommendation to close McKay ES effective for SY 2026-27. The attendance boundary will be considered separately.

B. Policy FL – Retirement of Facilities

Board policy FL has been adopted to address the closing of school facilities. While the policy does not contain explicit factors to consider, policy FL does provide guidance for reaching a decision on a closure. Policy FL is attached in Appendix A. The following addresses the guidance contained in the policy.

1. Information: *Information concerning student enrollment, building capacity, residential development and the cost of operating facilities.*

The district has been tracking the enrollment trend for McKay ES for several years and has determined that the decline of enrollment in the McKay ES attendance area is consistent on an annual basis and enrollment forecasting does not see a reversal of this trend. There is no anticipated new residential development which would improve the enrollment at McKay ES. Furthermore, Greenway ES and Raleigh Hills ES have sufficient permanent capacity to accommodate the students from McKay ES. Consolidating McKay ES with two existing elementary schools (Greenway ES and Raleigh Hills ES) will save on the operating costs of the facility. There is no expectation to lease, sell or demolish the existing structure. The district has other programs which may benefit from relocating to a school facility such as McKay ES. The district will study these potential relocations in due course.

2. Advisory Committee: *The board shall determine whether to close a school and whether a citizens' committee should be appointed for the purpose of recommending which particular school(s) to close.*

The principals at Greenway, McKay and Raleigh Hills elementary schools have conducted robust community engagement with the families and staff of each school concerning the closure of McKay ES by consolidating with Greenway ES and Raleigh Hills ES. Multiple community meetings, staff meetings, and deliberate communication with Spanish-speaking families has taken place, led by the school principals. An advisory committee will not improve upon the engagement which has already taken place.

3. Criteria: *Criteria for determining the most appropriate school to close will include, but may not be limited to, demographic projections, economics of operation, physical condition of the building and safety factors.*

As noted previously, the enrollment at McKay ES has experienced a continued, steady decline over the past 10 or more years, and is not expected to increase. The student projection for McKay ES in SY 2026-27 is fewer than 200 K-5 students which would result in a staffing allocation which could potentially have an adverse affect on the educational experience of the students at McKay ES. Moving the students to two adjacent elementary schools will result in the students having more programming choice and opportunities.

4. Communication Plan: *When it is decided a school is to be closed, time should be allowed to communicate with the public, plan and carry out the attendance boundary changes, reassign students and staff and coordinate activities among the schools involved.*

As noted previously, the principals of the three affected schools have conducted robust communications with their families and staff. If the board determines to close McKay ES, additional communications will occur with the families and staff about the next steps for welcoming them to their new schools.

Retirement of Facilities

The district will maintain current information concerning student enrollment, building capacity, residential development and the cost of operating facilities. The information will serve as the basis for determining trends and making projections of future enrollments and costs. If projections indicate a substantial and continuing enrollment decline in an area of the district, the superintendent or designee will develop a plan of action. The plan may include a recommendation to close one or more schools.

The Board may take immediate action to close a school to protect the health and safety of students and staff and other unforeseen circumstances.

The Board shall determine whether to close a school and whether a citizens' committee should be appointed for the purpose of recommending which particular school(s) to close. If a citizens' committee is appointed, the Board will be responsible for making the appointments. The committee will be a Board advisory committee, and the establishment of such committee will be in accordance with Board policy BCF - Advisory Committees to the Board.

Criteria for determining the most appropriate school to close will include, but may not be limited to, demographic projections, economics of operation, physical condition of the building and safety factors.

When it is decided a school is to be closed, time should be allowed to communicate with the public, plan and carry out the attendance boundary changes, reassign students and staff and coordinate activities among the schools involved.

A school closed for regular school purposes should be considered for alternative uses or sale.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 332.107

ORS 332.155

OAR 437-001-0760

OAR 437-002-0020 to -0075

OAR 581-022-2345

Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2629 (2012); Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2641-2656 (2016).