

Three Rivers School District

8550 New Hope Rd ☐ PO Box 160 ☐ Murphy, OR 97533

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Three Rivers School District Board of Directors understands that a school has a special place and focus in the life of a community. It tends to be particularly true in the case of a small, rural community. Small, rural schools are valued for many reasons. Although not an exhaustive list, it may be because:

- A small school is perceived as being better positioned to respond to the needs of students, as school personnel and families usually know one another;
- A small number of students can lead to a heightened sense of being a school-family;
- Classes may be smaller, which results in more individualized attention for the students;
- The environment may be viewed as protecting or shielding students, if only temporarily, from some of the challenges found in more urban settings;
- It's a place to offer classes for adults in addition to serving the needs of children; and
- The school is a meeting or gathering place for the entire community;

Although a very difficult challenge and choice, there are times when closure of a building may need to be considered by the Three Rivers School District Board, because the District can't afford to keep all of its programs, staff and buildings in operation. Certain school buildings may no longer be adequate for instructional purposes and may need to be used to benefit the district or public in other ways.

In determining whether the District should consider the possibility of the closure of a specific school, the Board will be guided by this combination of factors:

Declining Enrollment. Is there a projected student enrollment at a building that will be lower than a predetermined level set by the Board?

Inadequate Funding. Is there a significant drop in state funding of public education independent of declining enrollment?

Physical State of Facility and Grounds. Is there an excessively expensive, infrastructure upgrade necessary at a building? Is there a school site that is less than adequate for continued use as an educational center?

Space Available in Other Building. Is there another building that has classroom capacity and may be more efficient to operate?

Educational Flexibility. Is there a school building that is least adaptable for housing a modern and flexible educational program?

END OF POLICY

Adopted: 6/19/2006
Reviewed: