

Appendix 5

PARAMETERS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES PLANNING

The parameters listed below have been found helpful to the board and to the administration when setting school boundaries and developing comprehensive short- and long-term facilities plans. The first fifteen items are found in board policy. No attempt has been made to prioritize the remaining parameters and it is recognized that in some cases accomplishment of one objective might prohibit the accomplishment of another.

1. Base decisions on available data
2. Support safety
3. Provide opportunity for stakeholder input
4. Optimize the relationship between facilities and enhanced student learning
5. Ensure equity in educational opportunities for all students
6. Address immediate, short-term and long-term needs
7. Design for physical accessibility
8. Utilize current capacity
9. Keep communities of students together – schools serving neighborhoods
10. Minimize student disruptions
11. Consider projections of future enrollment and residential growth potential
12. Plan for locations of special education programs
13. Do not allow schools to become too large or too small
14. Plan and design for flexibility to accommodate changes in mission, programs and instructional strategies
15. Plan and design to accommodate changes in technology
16. Ensure decisions are fiscally and environmentally responsible
17. Balance socio-economic demographics
18. Balance ethnicity demographics
19. Minimize busing
20. Consider natural boundaries
21. Plan and design for partnerships and community use of facilities

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