

POLICY TITLE: Closure of a School		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2008	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 2/10/2014	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: District Management		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a systematic process and criteria relating to the closing or proposed closing of a school.

II. Policy Statement

A. The following factors shall be considered in deciding whether to close a school or not.

1. Student enrollment trends;
2. Age or condition of school buildings;
3. Transportation;
4. Educational programs;
5. Racial composition of student body (to the extent legally permitted);
6. Financial considerations;
7. Student relocation;
8. Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating;
9. Any other factors deemed relevant.

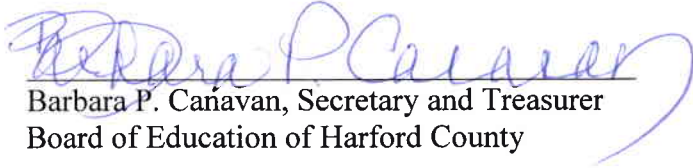
B. Procedure for decision regarding school closings.

1. The Board shall conduct at least one public hearing where concerned citizens may orally or in writing present or submit testimony or data on the proposed closing.
 - a. The public hearing shall take place before any final decision by the Board regarding closing the school.

- b. Time limits on the submission of oral or written testimony and data shall be clearly defined in the notification of public hearing.
- C. Public notice of consideration of school closure.
- 1. The Board shall, in addition to any regular means of notification it uses, provide written notification that a school is being considered for closure by placing an advertisement in at least two newspapers having general circulation in the geographic attendance areas of the school proposed to be closed and the geographic attendance areas of the school to which the students will be relocated.
 - 2. The newspaper notification shall set forth the procedures which will be followed by the Board in making its final decision.
 - 3. The newspaper notification shall appear at least two weeks in advance of any public hearing(s) held by the Board on a proposed school closing.
- D. Final decision on school closure.
- 1. The final decision of the Board to close a school shall be announced at a public session and shall be in writing.
 - 2. The final decision shall include the rationale for the school closing.
 - 3. Notification of the Board's final decision shall be provided to the community in the geographic attendance areas of the school proposed to be closed and the school to which students will be relocated.
 - 4. The notification of the Board's final decision shall include notification of the right to appeal the decision to the State Board of Education.
 - 5. Except in emergency circumstances, the final decision of the Board to close a school shall be announced at least ninety (90) days before the date the school is scheduled to close, but not later than April 30 of any school year. An emergency circumstance is one where the decision to close a school because of unforeseen circumstances cannot be announced at least ninety (90) days before

the date the school is scheduled to close or before April 30 of any school year.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:


Barbara P. Cañavan, Secretary and Treasurer
Board of Education of Harford County

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
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Amended	2/10/2014				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References		
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Patrick P. Spicer, Esquire		JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: General Counsel
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