

*MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATES AS MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION,
AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE REFERRED TO AS "MHPSD" AND/OR "DIVISION"*

SECTION 800 – Facilities and Transportation

POLICY 812: SCHOOL AND PROGRAM CLOSURE AND RELOCATION

BACKGROUND

In order that the educational programs and services of the Division may be conducted in the most effective and efficient manner, the Board will regularly review its existing and projected physical facilities.

The *School Act* states that the Board may:

1. Close a school permanently or for a specified period of time.
2. Close entirely 3 or more consecutive grades in a school.
3. Transfer all students from one school building to one or more other schools buildings on a permanent basis.

POLICY

The Board is responsible for providing educational programs and services in suitable facilities and for determining the number, kinds and locations of schools and programs to be established and maintained. The Board ~~also~~ recognizes that under specific conditions it may be necessary to close a school, or portion thereof, due to fiscal constraints, enrolment, health and safety concerns and demographic changes. The Board further recognizes that, on occasion, programs may need to be closed or it may be necessary to relocate programs, grade levels or groups of students due to insufficient enrolment or financial or facility limitations. ~~of a school for reasons of quality of education and economy of operation.~~

GUIDELINES

1. The Board will make every effort to keep all schools open in the jurisdiction. However, the Board may consider closure of a school or a division within a school when one or more of the following conditions exist.
 - 1.1. The student enrolment makes it difficult to provide resources for instructional programming.
 - 1.2. The cost of keeping the school in operable condition or restoring it to operable condition is unreasonably high.
 - 1.3. Keeping the school open poses a threat to the health or welfare of students, staff or the public.

- 1.4. There is a need to consolidate schools or relocate programs necessary to serve the overall interests of public education under the jurisdiction of the Board.
- 1.5. The utilization of facilities is impacted upon by eternal factors.
2. The school closure process does not apply to the following conditions:
 - 2.1. ~~Sections 4 to 7 of the School Act do not apply to a closure that occurs~~ in connection with the transfer by one Board to another Board or to the operator of a charter school of the ownership of real property on which a school building is located and the school building will continue to be used for the instruction or accommodation of students,
 - 2.2. As a result of the Minister's having directed the Board to dispose of the school building pursuant to section 200(3) of the Act, or
 - 2.3. Pursuant to section 2(b) if:
 - i. the school has more than one education program,
 - ii. the students in the grades being closed are all in the same education program, and
 - iii. the education program referred to in sub clause (ii) is to be transferred to another school.
3. ~~Where the Board determines that closure or relocation of a program, grade level or a group of students is to be considered pursuant to subsection (1)(c), the Board shall direct the Superintendent to initiate the Program Closure or Relocation process with the school community. Where a Board plans to transfer an education program pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii), the Board shall organize and convene an information meeting for the purpose of informing the parents of the students affected by the transfer and the alternative arrangements for continuing the education program at another school.~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

[812 P 001 – School Closure](#)

[812 P 002 – Program Closure and Relocation](#)

REFERENCES

Alberta Education – School Act

Approved: September 7, 2004

Revised: December 15, 2009

Admin – November 14, 2018

CC – February 25, 2019

Board – March 26, 2019

