



**904 SCHOOL CLOSING
PPSD POLICY**

<p>General Belief</p>	<p>The Providence Public School District & School Board seeks to provide the best possible education for each pupil while operating the public schools as economically as possible.</p>
<p>Purpose and Scope</p>	<p>This policy establishes the standards and procedures for the closure, permanently or temporarily, or phase-out of a public school within the Providence School District. It is designed to ensure transparent communication and thoughtful consideration of the impacts on students, families, staff, and the community.</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>The following definitions are provided to assist in understanding this policy and the legal obligations of the District.</p> <p>Closure of a Public School: The temporary or permanent cessation of a public school, including all related activities.</p> <p>Phase-Out of a Public School: A gradual process leading to the school's closure, including provisions for ongoing education and a staff transition plan.</p> <p>Staff: Employees at the public school, including teachers, administrators, maintenance, cafeteria personnel, and others.</p> <p>Merger: one school is dissolved and another school continues under the same name, with the added students from the dissolved school.</p>
<p>Guidelines and Implementation Strategies</p>	<p>Notification and Communication</p> <p>A. Initial Notification: Within thirty (30) calendar days of the recommendation to initiate a school building's closure or phase-out, the following actions shall be taken:</p> <p>Website Posting: A detailed report on the school's condition, repair costs, student enrollment trends, classroom sizes, the proposed timeline, and reasons for closure, along with a financial comparison of the costs of closing vs remaining open, will be posted on the district's website homepage.</p> <p>Direct Notification: An email and written notice, including the above information, will be sent to a responsible adult for each student.</p>

	<p>B. Contingency Plans:</p> <p>Student and Family Transition Plan: A plan outlining enrollment and transportation options for affected families and students will be developed.</p> <p>Staff Transition Plan: A plan for impacted staff members, detailing transition support and opportunities created with input from affected staff and agreement among stakeholders in compliance with collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>IV. Community Engagement</p> <p>A. Community Meetings: Within thirty (30) days of releasing the initial report and contingency plans, at least three (3) meetings will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A meeting with school staff to discuss the closure or phase-out plan. ● A meeting with the school’s parent-teacher association, special education advisory group, and other parent groups. ● A public forum for students, families, community members, and staff to discuss the closure or phase-out proposal. <p>Meetings should provide the proper accommodations for a large number of community members when expected.</p> <p>V. Decision Making</p> <p>Following the community engagement process, the Providence School Board will review feedback and make a final recommendation to the Superintendent and/or Commissioner of Education on the proposed closure or phase-out; or final decision if so authorized. The board's recommendation will be based on a comprehensive assessment of the proposal's impact on the educational community and the district's broader goals.</p> <p>VI. Implementation</p> <p>The implementation of any decision to close or phase-out a school will be conducted in a manner that minimizes disruption to the educational process and supports affected students and staff.</p>
<p>Compliance with Laws, Confidentiality Requirements</p>	<p>The Superintendent will ensure that all PPSD employees and all PPSD contractors comply fully with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and with all Board policies. In the event any part of any policy is unlawful, the Superintendent will report such an event to the Board as soon as practicable and request of the Board a modification of the policy.</p>

Legal Reference	Providence Public Schools Collective Bargaining Agreements: https://www.providenceschools.org/Page/449
History	<p>Approved by Board: October 28, 1971, Resolution #71</p> <p>Amended: August 28, 1975, Resolution #821</p> <p>Amended: November 20, 1975, Resolution 0861</p> <p>Amended: February 12, 1981, Resolution #1086</p> <p>Amended: March 11, 1991</p> <p>Recommended by Policy Committee: April 3, 2024</p> <p>Regulations Issued:</p>