

POLICY 2600

SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION AND CLOSURE

## POLICY:

The Board of Education ("Board") has a responsibility to provide school facilities throughout the School District that will allow for educational effectiveness for students, operational efficiency, and health and safety of the occupants. Consistent with the intent of this responsibility, the Board may consider consolidation or closure of schools, under the authority of the <u>School Act</u>, sections 73 and <u>168</u> and <u>Ministerial Order 194/08</u>. The permanent closure of a school means the closing, for a period exceeding 12 months, of a school building used for purposes of providing an educational program for students. The Board has the authority to close a school for reasons which include:

- declining student enrolment such that the school is no longer economically or operationally viable;
- restructuring of educational programs, consolidation of operations and relocation of students to other schools in the School District which results in the school being deemed surplus to the district's educational needs;
- the school being replaced with a newly constructed school.

The permanent closure or reconfiguration of schools is a significant issue of public concern and therefore the Board will follow a process that provides adequate time and opportunity to consult with those who will be affected prior to any decision being made.