

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The School Committee believes that educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and of school facilities that help implement that program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number and educational requirements of students in the school district and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support the educational program. To best use local resources, it is the Committee's intent, wherever possible, to partner with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Recognizing that school facilities are long-term community investments, the Committee will develop projects that reflect cost-effective designs, are consistent with good engineering practice, and use high quality construction, with attention to current and future technological practices for students, faculty, and school staff. Sites will be chosen to meet the educational need, maximize the use of any available community resources, and minimize any possible adverse education, environmental, social, or economic impacts on the community.

[SOURCE: MASC—Reviewed 2022](#)

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 70B
 963 CMR 2.00

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

As long as space is needed by the schools its use is determined by the Committee. When it is determined that the space is not needed for immediate school use, then the disposition of the available space remains a School Committee decision. In all cases of space determination, the requirements of the school program shall take precedence over all other requests.

LEGAL REFS.: Ch. 40, Sec. 3; Ch. 71, Sec. 68

Approved April, 1978

Reaffirmed at School Committee Meeting of September 28, 1981

Revised at School Committee Meeting of January 21, 1985

Reaffirmed at School Committee Meeting of February 1, 2018

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent will recommend to the School Committee, which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities
2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions
3. Reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to Committee policy
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bused, time, distance, and safety
5. Alternative uses of the building
6. Cost/Savings
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Plant Operation
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Capital Investment
 - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs

SOURCE: MASC – Reviewed 2022

NOTE: Regional school districts have the statutory authority to acquire property. Thus, the content of a policy in this area might vary slightly from that in the sample policy above. Regional school districts should cite M.G.L. 71:16 at this code.