

SD 42 POLICY: 6425

SCHOOL SIZE

The Board believes a policy on school size is necessary to provide a framework to ensure all students have access to a quality learning environment.

The Board believes that a quality learning environment cannot be captured in a policy but more in the culture of the school.

The Board believes that a quality learning environment is an interaction between the physical plant and several other qualities that cannot easily be defined.

The Board believes that students should have equal access to choice programs.

To that end, the Board believes that a number of variables need to be considered in determining school size, whether consideration is being given to building a new school, expanding an existing school, closing a school, or managing enrolment in current schools.

These variables include, but are not exclusive to:

- vulnerability rates
- enrolment current and projected
- funding (local/provincial)
- size of school district
- size of school site
- geography of school district
- organization of schools by grades/programs
- human and material resources
- needs of school, community, school district
- building utilization – district wide
- educational programming
- Impact of size of school on school culture such as:
 - The school is so big that it's crowdedness impacts culture
 - The school is so small that you cannot form teams and clubs impacting culture
 - The school is so big that control has become an issue
 - The school is so small that students cannot get a diversified group of friends
 - The school is so big that you can never bring your entire school together
 - The building is so large and the student population so small that a "ghost town" effect is impacting culture

Current research on School Size should be used in conjunction with variables and local considerations, but the actual school size discussion must ultimately include the culture and physical plant of each school.

APPROVED: October 29, 2014