



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2023
TO: Chair Hale and Joint Assembly School District Facilities Committee
FROM: Katie Koester, Engineering & Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Draft School Facilities Evaluation Matrix Version 9.26.23

The purpose of this memo is to provide a framework for future Joint Assembly/School District Facilities Committee work. It is the intent of the 2023 committee that these variables frame the basis for a matrix through which to consider any repurposing of school facilities. It should be noted that the majority of these variables will need to be updated annually.

Quantitative

This section reflects numbers and metrics that can be used in analysis. The definitions below attempt to help provide narrative and context to the figures.

Enrollment versus capacity (as a percentage).

This category reflects how many students are enrolled in the school versus the capacity according to the Uniform Building Code.

Capital Cost of Renovations: This figure is pulled directly from the JSD 6-year CIP. The 6-year CIP is based on the renewal and replacement schedule submitted to DEED annually. It is not a comprehensive condition assessment.

School size and impact on funding formula: This figure reflects the annual loss in state funding after a four-year step-down. It is based on current enrollment and will change annually.

High School Graduation Rate: The high school graduation rate divides the number of graduating seniors by the total enrollment of freshmen four years prior. Also referred to as a completion ratio. This information is only readily available for high school students.

Predicted future enrollment by grade level: This category uses state demographer data to predict how many students will be enrolled in that grade level based on historical information.

Demographic Diversity: This category captures ethnic diversity and the number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

Maintenance and Operations (non-instructional): This figure reflects the maintenance and operations line item in the JSD budget for this facility. If this facility is consolidated into another, some of those expenses will be transferred to the new facility.

Qualitative

This category helps decision-makers think about the variables that are more difficult to measure but no less important. Some of these uses are determined by the Pupil Teacher Ratio set by the Board of Education each year, others are determined by the number of students identified with special needs and the associated federal regulations, and others are set by the special programs housed at individual school sites.ⁱ

Special Services: Schools serve programmatic and educational needs and buildings are used for special education classroom use, related services (OT/PT, SLP, School Psychologist) needs, small group instruction, etc. This category reflects the classrooms reserved for those purposes.

Classrooms Used for Instruction: *Outstanding work: Staff needs to present a revised definition of instructional use that meets the committee's intent of how often a classroom is used for student instruction throughout the day.*

Cultural Impact: Often a school has a strong identity and sense of place; students, faculty, teachers, and community members develop a culture rooted in the facility and what it represents. Any changes need to be considered the cultural impact.

Impact on Quality of Education: Speaks to the JSD mission statement "In Juneau, we partner to provide each student with meaningful, relevant, and rigorous learning experiences in order to graduate diverse, engaged citizens ready for a changing world."

Impact on the Neighborhood: School facilities are often used outside the school day and are key gathering spaces for community functions. What impact would repurposing a facility have on those uses?

Pupil-teacher ratio: The pupil-teacher ratio is set by the Board of Education annually and varies by grade level.

Opportunities

Alternative Facility Needs: This reflects alternative facility needs in the community this facility could serve.

Can it be Repurposed and at what Cost? This figure reflects the cost of reconfiguring a building to meet an identified community need.

Recommendation:

Forward Draft School Facilities Evaluation Matrix as a framework for future committee work.

ⁱ The committee discussed using a Likert scale, or similar tool, to help provide numbers to the qualitative variables. A Likert scale is a rating scale used to measure opinions, attitudes, or behaviors. It is commonly used in survey research, marketing and social sciences. Using a 5-point quality scale as an example, "how would you rate this variable on a scale of 1-5: 1. Very poor, 2. Poor, 3. Sometimes, 4. Often, 5. Always. If the committee would like to apply numbers to the qualitative factors, thought will need to go into the most strategic way to make that meaningful.