



IPS Community Coalition Recommended Policy for Potential Closing of Schools

Cost Savings Analysis:

Before any attempt to close additional schools begins, we urge the district perform a cost-savings analysis from high school closures.

- Prove if \$7M annual savings was realized.
- Determine the true impact on transportation costs.
 - Include estimates of transportation cost totals if all schools were able to have after school activities and fieldtrips as would have previously been deemed normal compared to actual transportation reductions (no fieldtrips, etc.).

School Closure Taskforce:

The goal of this policy is to maximize and respect broad community input on any consideration of closing IPS schools and, if school closings are necessary, to do so based on community input, the best information, relevant research, and sound advice.

A community wide taskforce will be appointed by the IPS School Board.

The taskforce will include representation of a broad array of community organizations, churches, politicians, business, and others deem important yet may not be listed. This array will include individuals and organizations that have been critical of the recent school board as critique has been shown in research to improve policy results. Thus, no attempt will be made to create a taskforce biased toward or against any group or perspective.

This taskforce will spend about one year considering whether and which IPS schools that might be closed. The taskforce will meet at least monthly in nine separate months. And, the taskforce meetings will be open to the public.

The taskforce will be presented with indepth information on potential IPS school closings with time enough for independent analyses of the information. Also, there will be at least one presentation of a summary of the published research on school closings. Further, there will be a presentation by a superintendent from any state who has successfully had deep community engagement prior to closing schools.

After the taskforce has had a chance to discuss the indepth information, the summary of the research, and the superintendent presentation, the IPS administration and school board, based on the input to the taskforce, will make a recommendation of which, if any, schools should be closed along with a rationale for each. However, alternative recommendations may be made that are supported by at least three task force members; these latter recommendations must be comprehensive of the districtwide school closings and not focused on individual or a few schools. In other words, alternative recommendations must be districtwide plans for which schools to close. These recommendations will be discussed for at least two taskforce meetings.

A final taskforce meeting will be held at which there will be vote of the taskforce on the various recommendations. If there is no majority for one recommendation, there will be a second vote on the two recommendations with the most votes. The recommendation with the majority vote will be communicated to the IPS school board and to the Indianapolis community.