

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
School Consolidation / Closure  
Frequently Asked Questions #4

1. Both closure scenarios include converting Kennedy High into the Kennedy Education Center. What happens to the Kennedy students and what will be housed in the Kennedy Education Center?

Answer: If Kennedy were closed as a regular high school, the attendance boundaries for other high schools would be modified to so that Kennedy students were in an attendance area for a high school. Mostly, Kennedy students would be re-assigned to El Cerrito, Richmond and DeAnza high schools. Attendance boundaries could change for Pinole Valley, DeAnza, Richmond and El Cerrito. Kennedy Education Center could house charter schools, adult education, continuation programs as well as district staff displaced so that the district could sell properties such as Seaview.

2. What's the minimum size (in student population) that a school needs to be in order to be economically viable?

Answer: Board policy suggests that elementary schools should be between 450 and 800 students, middle schools between 900 and 1200 and high schools between 1200 and 1800. It's likely some schools will not be within those parameters. For example, Long Beach Unified averages 716 students per elementary schools yet has one school with only 311 students and another with 420 students. But Long Beach also has seven elementary schools that have more than 1000 students. WCCUSD elementary schools average 423 students with 24 of the 38 elementary schools having fewer than 450 students and no elementary school with more than 800 students.

3. Where would I find an up-to-date report on the current facility conditions at each school?

Answer: Slide 23 of the presentation [Introduction to School Closure](#) provides the list of schools and distinguishes between those that have been renovated / rebuilt or in planning to be renovated thereby identifying those under consideration for closure. The School Accountability Report Cards ([SARC](#)) provide some data on facility condition but do not provide any way to rank or compare the facility conditions.

4. Is there data available regarding the various operating costs for each of the schools to be consider?

Answer: A detailed chart of school operating costs is not available.

5. Is there market value research done yet for each property?

Answer: The District has contracted with a property appraisal firm for appraisals of ten district properties. Those appraisals are not yet available.

6. Is there a financial way to determine whether a K-8 proposal would be cost neutral?

Answer: If the District were to add seats for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at a school that is currently K-6, the number of seats would be limited by the space available and number of parents requesting to transfer their students into the K-8 school. By operating the K-8 as the district does current elementary schools, the K-8 school would be 'cost neutral.' No financial analysis is available at this time.