

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Facilities planning includes the development of new facilities, the maintenance of existing facilities and the repair or replacement of those facilities which have become damaged, worn or outdated. In planning with regard to School facilities, the District School Committee shall always give priority to maintaining the existing School facilities in such condition as will insure that all students receive the highest quality of education possible.

The maintenance and repair of existing facilities shall be of highest priority. The replacement of facilities which have become inoperable or outdated shall be of next priority, provided, however, if any facilities which are critical to the learning environment require replacement, the District School Committee will use all its efforts to obtain such replacement facilities.

Only after the District School Committee is assured that the maintenance and replacement of School facilities has been accomplished will it consider the expansion of School facilities, unless such expansion is required by law or regulation of the United States, the Commonwealth, a member town or a department or agency of any of them.

LEGAL REFS.: 963 CMR 2.00

FACILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The District School will provide special education services for all school age children in the School District who have disabilities which interfere with their making effective educational progress in a regular school environment. A school age child is anyone between the ages of three and twenty-two who has not obtained a school diploma or its equivalent. A "special needs child" is

“[a] child who, because of a disability consisting of a developmental delay or an intellectual, sensory, neurological, emotional, communication, physical, specific learning or health impairment or combination thereof, is unable to progress effectively in regular education and requires special education services in order to successfully develop the child's individual educational potential;”

The School District will provide "reasonable accommodations" for the child's disability to ensure a "free and appropriate education" for students with disabilities.

These services will be provided in a setting which allows integration of students with and without disabilities to the reasonable extent feasible.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71B:1 et seq. (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972), as amended.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Board of Education Regulations, 603 CMR 28.00
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, P.L. 94-142
Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. 12101
Amendment Article 114, Massachusetts Constitution;
M.G.L.51C:2(e)

NAMING NEW FACILITIES

Naming a school facility, or a part of a school facility, is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name for a school, a portion of a school, or a portion of school grounds. Whenever possible, the wishes of the entire school district, including parents and students, should be considered in naming school facilities.

The District School Committee has the authority to approve the naming and renaming of buildings, structures, and facilities located on school property. The District School Committee also has the authority to name subsections of existing structures or facilities, such as classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasiums.

Names and/or wording associated with school facilities shall be consistent with school district policies and promote messages aligned with the mission, vision and goals of the school district. To the extent possible, names and/or wording should be designed not to restrict the use of a space or inhibit changing the function of the space should that become necessary in the future.

When the opportunity to name or dedicate a new school or school related property, structure or facility is forthcoming, an orderly procedure will be communicated at the next available District School Committee meeting. The Committee's agendas should clearly reflect the intent to consider, review, and vote on naming opportunities.

Submission of a name for a school space may be made by any resident or by the Superintendent-Director, in writing, and should be made to the District School Committee Chair. If a name is being initiated at the local school level, the Principal must take reasonable steps to include the School Council and PTA/PTO in the nomination of the name before submission to the District School Committee.

The written request should specify the intent of the requestor and the reasons why this particular name would fit the facility. It should offer appropriate background information on the person or organization after which the facility will be named. An offer of a financial contribution to the School District may accompany the naming request, but the District School Committee is not obligated to accept or reject a name based upon financial considerations alone. Philanthropic contributions in support of the School District are encouraged by the District School Committee. The District School Committee may acknowledge generous donors by designating appropriate spaces within the School District's facilities consistent with the level of financial commitment.

Following the submission of a naming request, the District School Committee Chair will specify a consideration period that allows for public comment, following which the Committee will deliberate and vote on the name.

MEMORIALS

The District School Committee recognizes that the death of a student, member of the staff, or prominent community member is deeply felt by the school community. As places designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for permanent memorials.

Permanent memorials within the schools shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships.

Any permanent memorials in existence before the adoption of this policy can only be removed by a vote of the District School Committee.