

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District #33 (Chilliwack)**

**806
POLICY
Opening and Closing of Schools**

Preamble:

The Board recognizes that growth may necessitate the opening of new or existing schools and declining or shifting student populations may necessitate the consolidation and/or closure of schools from time to time. It is the declared intent of the Board to make its policies and regulations on school opening and closure clear to all concerned, to provide ample lead time before opening or closing any school, and to support a process that provides an opportunity for those who will be affected to be involved before the changes are made.

The *School Act* and the Ministerial Orders place the responsibility for school openings and closures on the local school board. In particular, permanent closures, those being of greater than 12 months duration, require the Board to allow for meaningful input and fair consideration of any concerns or options raised by the community before a final decision is made.

Policy:

The Board of Education may decide to open a new school or to re-open a closed school and must provide written notification to the Minister of Education. Following a public input process, the Board may also decide to permanently close a school and must provide written notification to the Minister of Education.

The Board has approved regulations for implementing school closures. These are an integral part of the Board's policy, and may not be changed except by Board action.