It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that programs and services be developed, replicated, and placed in support of district-wide academic goals that address systemic needs and support quality education for all students within the context of the current student assignment plan.

School Board Policy F21.00 delegates to the Superintendent the authority to make all of the closure and placement decisions for services not governed by the student assignment plan or other Board policies, and the placement decisions for programs not governed by the student assignment plan. This authority includes actions to make changes to existing programs or services, the development of new programs or services, the replication of existing programs or services, the relocation of existing programs or services, and the closure of existing services. This policy does not apply to changes in programs or services which are reserved by law or other Board policies to the School Board or Superintendent. Board approval is required for the closure of a school or instructional site.

Prior to making programmatic or service changes, including those requiring School Board approval under Policy F21.00, the Superintendent will take the objectives listed below into account, balancing competing needs to achieve the result that is in the best interests of students, all factors considered:

1. Place programs or services in support of district-wide academic goals;
2. Place programs or services equitably across the district;
3. Place programs or services where students reside;
4. Place programs or services in accordance with the rules of the current student assignment plan, and as appropriate, equitably across each middle school feeder region;
5. Engage stakeholders in a timely and publicly visible manner by informing, involving, and/or consulting with them as appropriate, and consider their input in the decision-making process when feasible;
6. Utilize physical space resources effectively to assure that instructional and program space needs are equitably met across the district;
7. Ensure that fiscal resources are taken into consideration, including analyzing current and future fiscal impacts; and
8. Analyze the impact of any decision before it is made, by using data, research and best practice
The relevant factors considered and the basis for each change shall be documented in writing, distributed to the School Board for its reference, and kept on file. On a quarterly basis the Superintendent or designee shall provide an update to the School Board on decisions made during the previous quarter and a preview of upcoming decisions, if known. These quarterly updates should be provided to the School Board in April, July and October.

The fourth quarterly update shall be an annual report that provides detail about all the decisions that were made in the prior year and how those decisions relate to the eight decision making criteria outlined in this policy. The annual report should be provided to the School Board in January.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish Superintendent Procedures or administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Changes to the Superintendent Procedures will be shared with the appropriate Board committee for its information.

Adopted: August 2012  
Revised: June 2016  
Cross Reference: Policy Nos. A01.00, 1005, 1620, 1640, F21.00; H01.00  
Related Superintendent Procedure:  
Previous Policies: C56.00  
Legal References: N/A  
Management Resources: N/A