

Building Utilization Basis

What is a Building Utilization analysis?

- ❑ A method to identify the number of learners that can be reasonably accommodated by a school building by assessing the following variables:
 - **Physical** (building space, classroom size, support space)
 - **Operational** (utilization rate, staffing, class size range, building schedule)
 - **Programmatic** (core educational program, specialty programs, instructional model)

Why conduct a Building Utilization analysis?

- ❑ To manage school facilities that are the right size for their intended enrollment
- ❑ To effectively accommodate enrollment, and provide appropriate facility space to support current programs/curriculum equitably across all facilities
- ❑ To provide important information to assist with effective and efficient management of school resources which can be better replicated in other facilities
- ❑ To provide important information for school construction funding decisions
- ❑ To better address overcrowding or underutilization of school facilities
- ❑ To provide important information for attendance boundary decisions
- ❑ To determine the need of existing inventory, remodeling, or new facilities
- ❑ To create or validate class size standards and begin educational specifications required for the intended educational programming
- ❑ To make decisions that will positively benefit student experience in the classroom

Building Utilization Definitions

- ❑ **Design Capacity** = measured by counting the number of standard classrooms in a school multiplied by the maximum allowable class size.
- ❑ **Square Footage per student** = ratio of the number of students to total building floor plan, compared to adopted standards.
- ❑ **Program Capacity** = maximum number of students a facility can accommodate after applying grade level or content area class averages to standard teaching stations within a facility.
- ❑ **Desired Class Size** = an ideal number of students in a particular content area class for planning and scheduling purposes.
- ❑ **Standard Class Size** = a number of students in a particular content area class used to establish a maximum student-to-teacher ratio for planning and scheduling purposes.
- ❑ **Functional Capacity** = number of students a building can accommodate by using a formula that considers educational programs, class size expectations and building schedules. Functional capacity measures the current usage of educational program space by assessing the following variables. **(RSP Recommends using Functional Capacity)**
 - Program type and requirements
 - Building schedule and class utilization
 - Class size ranges (desired and standard)
 - Staff levels
 - Square footage compared to adopted standards
 - Repurposed building space possibilities

Classroom Definitions

Because of the diverse course offerings and adaption of space in each building to provide various, enriched educational programming, RSP has used these definitions to group the various educational programming into these categories to uniformly classify classroom space

- ❑ **Core Classrooms** = Learning spaces for elementary students typically defined as their home room and for secondary students' classrooms where the core content of English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science or Social Studies are taught to students
- ❑ **Elective/Non-Core Classrooms** = Learning spaces for elementary students that typically are Art, Computer, Speech, Foreign Language, Music Physical Education and for secondary students' courses that fall outside of Core classrooms (ELA, Math, Science, or Social Studies) that are not typically required, but a student chooses as an option
- ❑ **Other Program Space Classrooms** = Learning spaces that are typically defined as intervention spaces designed to meet the need of students who require additional academic, mental, or emotional support to ensure academic development and behavioral success
- ❑ **Repurpose Classrooms** = Learning spaces in each building that potentially could be utilized to increase core classroom space. These core classroom changes will impact the educational programs currently in that space to include physical location and potential learning environment opportunities

DISCLAIMER:

- RSP's capacity analysis of each school did not include a formal facility condition assessment. This report provides an analysis of space for capacity purposes only. RSP recommends a Facility Condition Assessment be conducted by qualified architecture, engineering or facility firms experienced in this area. Future capacity data can be updated upon completion of facility improvements and/or additions.
- Utilization results are based on assumptions about space that is currently in use with designated programming. This information was provided by District administration. Future utilization or changes to programming will be addressed in the recommendation section.