

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

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ARTICLE 7 NEW CONSTRUCTION (Series 7000)

	PAGE
DETERMINING NEEDS.....	7110 (7-2)
FORECASTING ENROLLMENTS.....	7132 (7-3)
EVALUATING EXISTING BUILDINGS.....	7143 (7-4)
DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS.....	7155 (7-5)
RELATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT	7161 (7-6)
ARCHITECTURAL FEES	7211 (7-7)
RECORDING NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS, ADMINISTRATORS ARCHITECTS, OR BUILDERS.....	7552 (7-8)

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7110

DETERMINING NEEDS

The importance of providing school facilities that support the district's educational program is recognized by the board. In order to assure a comprehensive approach for projecting and planning needs, the administrative staff and board shall work together in determining such needs. Resources involving corporation staff members, other educational consultants at state and local levels, and commercial, industrial, and government experts should be consulted. The following are factors to be considered:

1. The expanding and changing education program of the corporation.
2. Relations with the total community.
3. Plant and site aesthetics.
4. Changing the make-up of the population as to age distribution, educational levels, and so forth.
5. Community planning and zoning.
6. Financial ability of the school corporation.
7. Safety and welfare of students.
8. Relationship between the projected new facilities and those already in existence.

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7132

FORECASTING ENROLLMENTS

Enrollment forecasts shall be prepared under the direction of the superintendent utilizing current enrollment information supplemented by data furnished by regional planning groups and census data.

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7143

EVALUATING EXISTING BUILDINGS

All existing school facilities will be evaluated periodically as to whether all requirements are being met for the desired educational programs. In addition to the inspections provided by corporation personnel, planning for major rehabilitation and remodeling will be incorporated into the school facilities master plan on a scheduled basis. In this connection, minimum standards for classroom size, heating, ventilating, lighting, and other needs as prescribed or recommended by the various state agencies are to be considered.

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7155

DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

To ensure that facilities being planned are designed to satisfactorily implement the educational program, the superintendent will provide for the establishment of educational specifications to apply when planning and building school facilities.

The educational specifications will include at least the following:

1. Needs of the students.
2. Educational activities to be included.
3. Description and quantity of furniture and equipment needed.
4. Arrangement of rooms and special areas.
5. Special site considerations of aesthetics, traffic patterns, cooperative community use, and others.
6. Other information that will give guidance to an architect in developing the building and site.

Consultants and other appropriate resource personnel from state agencies, universities, planning laboratories, and consulting firms may be used to assist school corporation personnel when needed and authorized by the board.

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7161

RELATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In matters regarding the selection and acquisition of school sites and in the construction of school buildings and related structures or in additions thereto, the school district will work in the planning stages in cooperation with other county and municipal bodies such as planning and zoning commissions, the police, fire, health, and welfare departments, and other relevant bodies so as to enhance the long-term welfare of the community.

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7211

ARCHITECTURAL FEES

The payment of architectural and engineering fees shall follow such standards as are consistent with Indiana state statute, the Indiana State Board of Accounts, and sound business practices.

Blackford County Schools
Board Policy
Series 7000
New Construction

7552

RECORDING NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS, ADMINISTRATORS, ARCHITECTS, OR BUILDERS

All major building projects will be identified by suitable plaque(s) identifying the project, year completed, the names of the board members, superintendent, and the architectural firm. Names of board members shall be those serving on the board at the time of state approval and those serving during the time of construction.