

## The Basics

Anchorage School District announced in November 2024 the intention to close seven elementary schools over the next three years as part a district wide “Right Size” initiative. Three of those seven schools are in very close physical proximity (ie: Baxter and Wonder Park are roughly 1.5 miles from Nunaka Valley). There are 1379 students in all 7 schools, 446 of them are in our three schools, hence **roughly 32% of the total number of impacted students are in our three schools.**

- Baxter (Scenic Foothills comm council: Year 3 closure, ASD recommending a repurpose for a charter school, 53 to Scenic Park 99 College Gate 17 Chester Valley),
- Wonder Park (Year 2 closure, Russian Jack comm council: ASD recommending complete closure, 103 to Williwaw and 78 to Ptarmigan)
- Nunaka Valley (Year 2 closure, Northeast comm council: ASD recommending repurpose for pre-k. 39 students to Chester Valley and 57 to RJ).

Note the transportation plans involve walkable options (at least from a high level: students won’t need to cross major streets to get to their new school).

The other four schools recommended for closure: Fire Lake (Eagle River), Bear Valley, Lake Hood, Tudor

The ASD School Board is scheduled to vote on the closures on Dec. 17.

## Where To Find More Information

ASD’s “Right Sizing” website: <https://www.asdk12.org/rightsize>

School Board Nov 4 work session, watch online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9XPjObRBlw&list=PL-8GvZQOwWUGVlpSr-n57BfdXs9g3JbLW&index=3>

Rubric for determining closure (there are 45 of the 57 elementary schools that meet at least one criteria):

\*Slide 12 from ASD presentation to the School Board during the Nov 4 work session:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/ak/asdk12/Board.nsf/files/DAPVZT833680/\\$file/Final%20ASD%20Rightsizing%20for%202004%20NOV%202024.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ak/asdk12/Board.nsf/files/DAPVZT833680/$file/Final%20ASD%20Rightsizing%20for%202004%20NOV%202024.pdf)

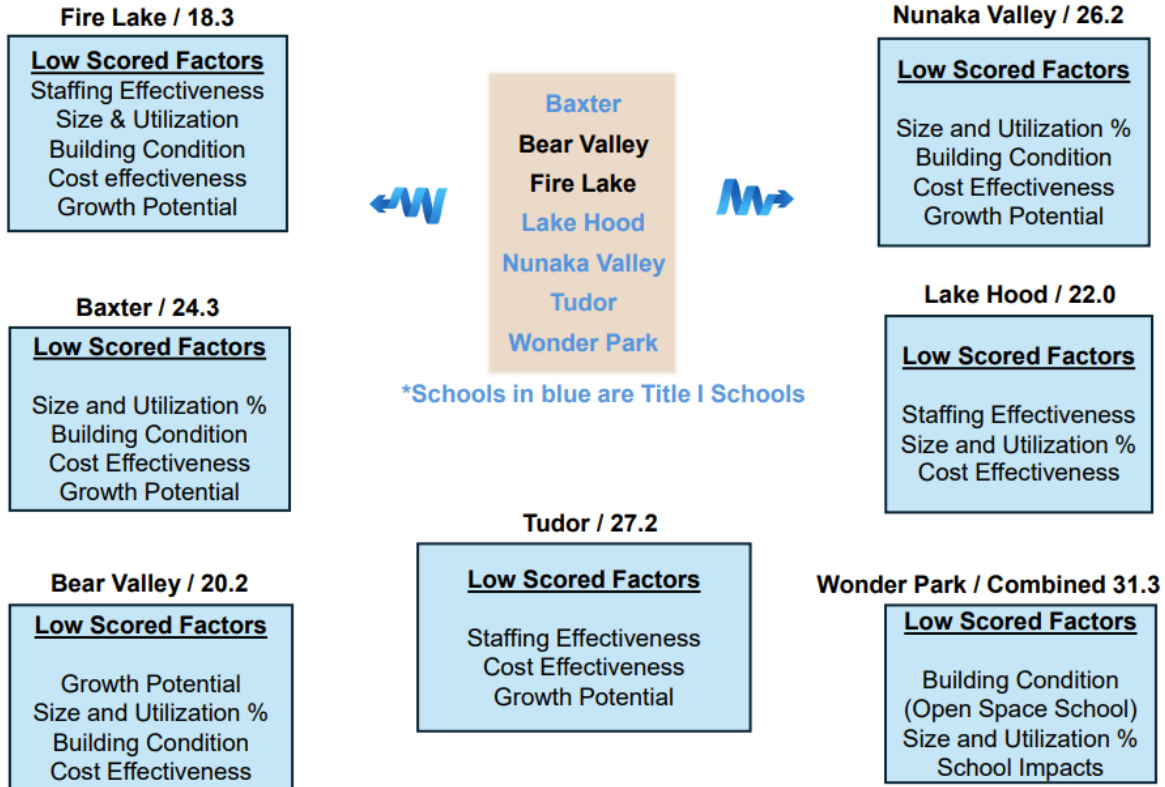
## Recommendation for Close/Combine & Repurpose

Closing Schools	Remarks	Receiving Schools
<u>Bear Valley ES</u> (Year 1) (69%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure</li> </ul>	80 students to O'Malley ES 104 students to Rabbit Creek ES 121 students to Huffman ES
<u>Lake Hood ES</u> (Year 1) (39%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Charter School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: Pre-K, SBBS program</li> </ul>	113 students to Turnagain ES 62 students to Northwood ES
<u>Tudor ES</u> (Year 1) (69%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Whaley K-12 &amp; Outreach</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: Montessori program moves to Denali Montessori</li> </ul>	179 students to Lake Otis ES 124 students to Denali Montessori ES
<u>Fire Lake ES</u> (Year 2) (47%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Charter School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: SLC program</li> </ul>	108 students to Eagle River ES 40 students to Birchwood ABC ES 2 students to Chugiak ES
<u>Nunaka Valley ES</u> (Year 2) (63%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Pre-K School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: 7 Pre-K classes stay</li> </ul>	39 students to Chester Valley ES 57 students to Russian Jack ES
<u>Wonder Park ES</u> (Year 2) (66%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure</li> <li>• Programs affected: Pre-K, SLC program</li> </ul>	103 students to Williwaw ES 78 students to Ptarmigan ES
<u>Baxter ES</u> (Year 3) (56%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurpose building: <b>Charter School</b></li> <li>• Programs affected: SLC program</li> </ul>	53 students to Scenic Park ES 99 students to College Gate ES 17 students to Chester Valley ES

# School Evaluation Rubric Components

<b>Staffing Effectiveness</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 5 →1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partial staff increments for Specials staff &amp; SPED Itinerant staff</li><li>• % Combos</li></ul>
<b>School Impacts</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 1 →5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• % Economically Disadvantaged, % SPED and % ELL</li></ul>
<b>Community Growth Potential</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 5 →1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Housing Potential</li><li>• Enrollment Decline Expectations</li></ul>
<b>Size and Utilization</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 5 →1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current utilization and projections for SY 25/26 and SY 29/30</li></ul>
<b>Facility Condition</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 5 →1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Component life cycle replacement costs next 2 years</li><li>• Recent major maintenance improvements &amp; repairs</li><li>• Short-term planned improvements</li></ul>
<b>Cost Effectiveness</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 5 →1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance &amp; operational cost per student</li><li>• Utilities cost per sq. ft.</li></ul>
<b>Alternative Use</b>	<b>Overall Score = Average of subgroups rated 5 →1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-location potential of facility</li><li>• % Age 0-4 population (potential incoming students)</li></ul>

# Closure & Consolidation Recommendations



The rubric scores ranged from 18.3 (lowest) to 36.5 (highest). The staff conducted detailed analysis on the lower scored schools for potential consolidation and/or repurposing.

## Ways To Engage

ASD town halls (note the format is a bit different from 2022, there will be folks from ASD available to specifically answer questions about transportation and services. Supposedly we will still be able to communicate our concerns to: starts w/20 min presentations then two break out rooms):

- Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m. at Chugiak High School
- Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m. at Dimond High School
- Nov. 16, 12-2 p.m. at Bartlett High School
- Nov. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. by Zoom
- Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m. by Zoom

Email ASD Superintendent Dr. Jharrett Bryantt: [officeofthesuperintendent@asdk12.org](mailto:officeofthesuperintendent@asdk12.org)

Email the ASD School board: [schoolboard@asdk12.org](mailto:schoolboard@asdk12.org)

[School Board Meetings](https://www.asdk12.org/Page/10247): <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/10247>

- To ensure successful testimony please [follow these rules](#):  
<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/1443>
- Plan on attending the Dec 17 meeting in person! [Sign up ahead of time to ensure you can testify!](#): <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVWE-wiHua43o2AoMSntvjRU2hOo1Wb1rg1dUJaRK0sD03hQ/viewform>
- Our Area Assembly Members:
  - George Martinez ([george.martinez2@anchorageak.gov](mailto:george.martinez2@anchorageak.gov))
  - Karen Bronga ([karen.bronga@anchorageak.gov](mailto:karen.bronga@anchorageak.gov))
  - Christopher Constant ([christopher.constant@anchorageak.gov](mailto:christopher.constant@anchorageak.gov))
  - Daniel Volland ([daniel.volland@anchorageak.gov](mailto:daniel.volland@anchorageak.gov))
- Our Area AK State Legislature Senators and Representatives:
  - Forrest Dunbar ([forrest.dunbar@akleg.gov](mailto:forrest.dunbar@akleg.gov))
  - Bill Wielechowski ([bill.wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:bill.wielechowski@akleg.gov))
  - Genevieve Mina ([genevieve.mina@akleg.gov](mailto:genevieve.mina@akleg.gov))
  - Stanley Wright ([stanley.wright@akleg.gov](mailto:stanley.wright@akleg.gov))
  - Andrew Gray ([andrew.gray@akleg.gov](mailto:andrew.gray@akleg.gov))
  - Donna Mears ([donna.mears@akleg.gov](mailto:donna.mears@akleg.gov))