

SCHOOL REDESIGN: OPTIONS PHASE

KEY POINTS:

- District facing possible \$20 million budget deficit next year
- Options have been developed, but are preliminary
- Dec. 10-11, 15-17—new round of community meetings for feedback
- Recommendations aimed at creating better programs, schools

What is the purpose of the School Redesign Initiative? School Redesign is a district-wide initiative to create better schools and programs for parents and students by expanding what works, maximizing academic and operational resources, and developing new and attractive choices for families. The Board asked the district to develop a plan for school restructuring as part of the FY2009 budget cycle.

What would the district be facing *without* redesigning schools? Next year, the district faces a projected \$15-20 million budget deficit that under our current design would require slashing programs, services and personnel or greatly increasing class size to save money.

Have any decisions been made to close or sell schools? **No.** Using the data collected on the twelve criteria that were approved as part of the first phase of redesign, the district has developed draft options that were presented to the Board on December 8th. These include new K-8 schools, expanding choice and programs that work, and consolidation.

Will the public have a chance to weigh in on the proposed options? **Yes.** These are preliminary options that must be rolled out to the community before they are refined and brought back as "action" recommendations in January. Meetings scheduled for December 10-11, 15-17 will allow participants to weigh in on the options offered in each area.

Which districts were options proposed for? The district created options and/or recommendations for every district in the county. Redesign is a district-wide improvement strategy.

What kinds of benefits do the new options offer? School Redesign options will include more partial magnet schools, additional themes and grade combinations. They will also reinvest savings into expanded early childhood, Career-Tech Education, and college preparatory programs.

FIND OUT MORE—including all options, data, and background—by clicking on the School Redesign banner at www.ccsdschools.com. E-mail feedback and questions to redesign@charleston.k12.sc.us.