



Hope Valley Discussion Phase Out Vs Closing October 22, 2024

Objective: To compare immediate school closure vs. phased-out closure for Hope Valley Elementary School

- Current Situation: Enrollment trends, operational costs, sustainability concerns.
- Key Question: Immediate closure or phased-out closure, grade by grade?

Closing Hope Valley Elementary at the End of the Current Academic Year

Pros	Cons
Immediate Cost Savings: Utilities, Maintenance, Custodial, transportation and staffing	Disruption for Students-separation from peers and relocation
Parents have a definitive response and timeline, therefore the uncertainty is alleviated.	Disruption for Parents & Staff-New logistics and school changes, concern for loss of identity and traditions
Students have the opportunity to meet more friends prior to entering middle school.	Infrastructure adjustments:-Elementary Facilities are significantly in need of upgrades -PreSchool renovations will need to happen ASAP
Addresses declining enrollment	
May allow for more specialized staff and efficient use of support services.	

Phasing out Hope Valley Elementary One Grade at a Time

Pros	Cons
Minimizes disruptions and allows parents and students time to adjust	Delayed Cost Savings: Utilities, Maintenance, Roof - \$1.4 million, Septic \$175,000, Custodial, transportation and staffing
Allows for a smoother transition for receiving schools	Prolonged Uncertainty: Parents and students are left with a budget to budget decision. A drawn-out closure may cause ongoing stress for the community, students, and staff over multiple years, leading to dissatisfaction.
Provides time to determine a revised Elementary Facility Plan	Curriculum and Instructional Costs: As students transition to other schools, resources like textbooks, instructional materials, and technology may need to be purchased or redistributed each year.
	Parents are now opting to move their child to other elementary schools making class sizes at HVES even smaller.

Budget Impact- Immediate School Closure

Potential Impact on FY 26	
Staffing	<p>\$400,000- Cut 4 Certified Staff ((2)Grade 1, (1) Grade 2 and 1 Nurse)- reduction</p> <p>\$100,000- Cut 2 Non Certified Staff (1 TA &1 Custodian)</p>
Building Maintenance & Utilities	\$195,000-Maintenance & Utilities
Transportation	\$85,000
Capital	\$95,000
Total Budget Impact	\$875,000

***Based on current budget numbers & information**

Updated Budget Impact from requests at 2/11/25 SC Meeting

*Enrollment Projections w/closure of HVES

School	Current Enrollment	Enrollment capacity:	Additional Classroom(s) needed	Approx. Enrollment w/ HVES Closure
Ashaway K-4	213	258	Add 1 Class:(Based on HVES closure) Grade 3	234
Charlestown PK-4	242	443	Add 2 Classes: Grade 1 & Grade 4 <i>(These were already determined as there are currently three K classes and three Grade 3 classes moving up- these are not due to HVES closure planning)</i> & Pre K (Add 4 Classes)	348
Richmond K-4	366	532	Add 3 Classes(Based on HVES) Grade 2 & 3(one of each) Grade 4 (2) <i>One class was already determined as we currently have four grade three classes and three grade 4 classes moving up)</i>	472
Hope Valley PK & 1-4	235 107 PK 128 1-4	303	Remove Grade 1-4 & PK	0

*Slide updated based on 2/11/25 Enrollment

Enrollment Example if School Committee Closes HVES FY 26 Budget

School	Grade 2 # of Classrooms/Enrollment	Grade 3 # of Classrooms/Enrollment	Grade 4 # of Classrooms/Enrollment	Pre K # of Classrooms/Enrollment
Ashaway	2/48 Avg. Class Size 24	3/50 Avg. Class Size 17	2/44 Avg. Class Size 22	N/A
Charlestown	2/38 Avg. Class Size 19	2/40 Avg. Class Size 20	3/69 Avg. Class Size 23	4/100 (3 AM/PM & one all day) Avg. Class Size 10
Richmond	5/96- Avg. Class Size 21	5/99 Avg. Class Size 20	5/103 Avg. Class Size 21	N/A

Updated 11/1/24

Questions/Answers-If Hope Valley Closes

- **Where will my child go to school if Hope Valley closes?** The new lines are designed so that all students will be assigned the school closest to their home.
- **What Happens to teachers and staff?** Based on our current situation the teachers and staff at Hope Valley will select positions at other schools based on their certification and contract requirements.
- **Will Pre K have the required space at Charlestown including bathrooms?** Yes all Pre K classrooms will have facilities required for their age group and their needs..
- **How will this impact bussing?** There will be no changes as all students will be assigned transportation to the school closest to their home.
- **What if you want to send your child to a school that is not the one closest to their home?** Chariho has a voluntary transfer policy where elementary families can request a different school. Those requests are reviewed and if current enrollment allows for the switch the district can approve as long as the family signs off that they will be responsible for transportation per the school committee policy.
- **What will happen to the building if the school closes?** This would be a town council decision as the district leases the building.
- **The other three elementary schools are also old, do the other elementary schools have enough classrooms for all of the children?** Yes please note school enrollment capacities are noted on slide 7.
- **What is the transition plan so students can get to see their new school?** Every school will host a welcome tour for all families being reassigned from Hope Valley. SIT will also be asked to meet to plan for the event.

We understand that anytime a school is scheduled to close, it brings a mix of emotions. The relationships our students, teachers, and staff have built are deeply valued, and we recognize that change can be difficult. However, change can also bring new opportunities.

As we move forward, if the decision is to close Hope Valley our students will still have dedicated staff at each school including familiar faces from Hope Valley. Through it all, we remain committed to ensuring smooth transitions and maintaining the high standards of excellence that define our schools.

Thank you for your trust and support as we navigate this together.