Forming a New Region
or
Making a Regional Change

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First Steps

• Keep in contact with DESE on the legal steps that must be followed.
• Establish a communication plan
• Establish a community relations plan
• What are the Legal Steps?
Steps to forming Regional School
School District

Formation of Regional School District Planning Committee

• The regional school district planning committee is a special unpaid committee created by vote in town meeting. (See Appendix A) Its main purpose is to join with a similar committee (or committees) from other towns for the purpose of forming a regional school district planning board. The committee consists of three members, including one member of the school committee to be appointed by the moderator. (NOTE: An existing regional school district may create its own planning committee by following the terms in the regional agreement for initiating amendments.)
Steps to forming Regional School District

**Formation of Regional School District Planning Board**

- The Regional School District Planning Board refers to the combination of two or more regional school district planning committees. The Board has the following duties:
  - Elect chairperson and secretary-treasurer;
  - Study fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a Regional School District, its organization, operation and control; and of constructing, maintaining and operating a school or schools to serve the needs of such a district;
  - Develop a Long-Range Plan; *See Appendix D*
  - Request *Reorganization Needs Conference* with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; *See Appendix D*
  - Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the selectmen of respective towns. *See Appendix B*
Steps to forming Regional School District

Recommendation to form a Regional School District

• If the regional school district planning board recommends that a regional school district be established, it shall submit a proposed agreement. The agreement is the constitution under which the regional school district will operate. The Planning Board must then:

• File an application* with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

• Secure approval of towns at special or annual town meeting by printed ballots if a new agreement or, if required, for amending an existing agreement.
Steps to forming Regional School School District

*Regional School District Application*

- Record of Reorganization Needs Conference held with Department of Education staff.
- Long Range Educational Plan
- Regional School District Agreement.
- Certified votes of all appropriate municipalities or duly constituted authorities
Communication Plan

- Establish a communication process for the Regional School District Planning Committee Members or Planning Board
- Establish a communication process between the current Superintendents
- Establish a communication process between the School Committees
- Establish a communication process between the Selectmen and Finance Boards
Community Relations Plan

• Know the demographic of the communities
• Identify the leaders in each community
• What will it do for the education of the children?
• How can this change be a benefit to citizens who do not have children in the schools?
Community Relations Plan

• Have meetings with the parent groups and citizens at large
• Do focus group meetings
• Develop information on how the education for students will be improved
Community Relations Plan

• Provide them the financial information
• Involve the press in reporting on your meetings.
• Provide the press with press releases that you write
Regional Agreement

• From the focus groups, write your regional agreement or amendment

• The Regional Planning Committee, School Committees, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Boards need to be all involved and support the Regional Agreement or amendment that is finally drafted.

• Present the agreement or amendment to all demographic groups in the communities
Establish Process for Approval from the Towns

• Who will provide the information to the Communities

• Hold Informational meetings

• Brochures

• Campaign and Finance Laws

• Approval process in each town—Town Meetings
Next Steps

• Legal Process

• DESE

• Communication Plan

• Community Relations Plan

• Approval Plan
What to you want to Do?

• PreK – 6 District?
• High School students?
• Join another District?
• Need to define your choice