

Forming a New Region by
Combining Two Regional School
Districts

Options

Options to Forming a New Region

- Option 1. The Regional School Committee from-District A may form a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee
 - and invite members from Regional School District B District to join the Amendment Committee
- Option 2. The Regional School Committee from District B may form a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee
 - and invite members from Regional School District A to join the Amendment Committee
- Option 3. Towns form a Regional District Planning Committee (Chapter 71, Section 14). Regional District Planning Committees from two or more towns may join together to form a Regional School District Planning Board.
(Chapter 71 Section 14 A and 14 B)

Ch. 71, Section 14: Regional school district planning committee; creation; membership

- Section 14. Any town, either by a majority vote of its board of selectmen and a majority vote of the school committee or by vote in town meeting duly called therefor, may create a special unpaid committee to be known as a regional school district planning committee, to consist of 3 members, including 1 member of the school committee to be appointed by the moderator.
- At the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the town may appropriate for the expense of the regional school district planning committee such sums, not exceeding 1/10 of 1 per cent of the assessed valuation of such town in the preceding year, as it may deem necessary.
- Regional school district planning committees from any 2 or more towns may join together to form a regional school district planning board. Such regional school district planning board shall organize forthwith upon its formation by the election of a chairman and secretary-treasurer.

Section 14A: Duties of planning board

- Section 14A. It shall be the duty of the regional school district planning board to study the fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a regional school district,
- **to review** its organization, operation, control and the need to construct, maintain and operate a school or schools to serve the needs of such district;
- to estimate the construction and operating costs thereof;
- to assess the educational soundness of establishing such school or schools,
- to investigate the methods of financing such school or schools,
- and to **analyze** any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a regional school district; and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the selectmen of the several towns.

Section 14B: Regional school districts; formation; procedure

- Section 14B. The said regional district planning board may recommend that there shall be established a regional school district which may include all the towns represented by its membership, or alternatively, any specified combination of such towns. If the said regional district planning board so recommends, it shall submit a proposed agreement or agreements setting forth as to each alternative recommendation, if such be made, the following:

Section 14B: Regional school districts; formation; procedure

- a) The number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of the members of the regional district school committee.
- (b) The town or towns in which, or the general area within the regional school district where, the regional district school or schools are to be located.
- (c) The type of regional district school or schools. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the type of regional school may, if it is so stated in the agreement, consist of a vocational school or schools offering such kinds of education as may be provided by towns under the provisions of chapter seventy-four; and any other type of regional school may, if it is so stated in the agreement, offer said kinds of education. A town may simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district provided, however, that when a vocational school district is in operation, no member town of such district, and no other type of regional school district of which such a town is a member shall, without the approval of the commissioner of education, offer the same kinds of education as offered by said vocational school district

Section 14B: Regional school districts; formation; procedure

- (d) The method of apportioning the expenses of the regional school district, and the method of apportioning the costs of school construction, including any interest and retirement of principal of any bonds or other obligations issued by the district among the several towns comprising the district, and the time and manner of payment of the shares of the several towns of any such expense.
- (e) The method by which school transportation shall be provided, and if such transportation is to be furnished by the district, the manner in which the expenses shall be borne by the several towns.
- (f) the terms by which any city or town may be admitted to or separated from the regional school district; provided, however, that in the case of admission such terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of section sixteen of chapter six hundred and forty-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-eight.

Section 14B: Regional school districts; formation; procedure

- (g) The method by which the agreement may be amended.
- (h) The detailed procedure for the preparation and adoption of an annual budget.
- (i) Any other matters, not incompatible with law, which the said board may deem advisable.
- Copies of such agreement shall be submitted to the department of education, and subject to its approval, to the several towns for their acceptance. (MARS also recommends review and approval by municipal and school district counsel).

Decision

- Region A and Region B would decide if they are interested in forming a new regional school district.
 - If yes, choose the method to explore creating a new region.
 - If creating a new region, the regional school district planning board could use a recently approved regional agreement as a model.
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- Note: In the State Budget FY20, there is money for regionalization

Current Regional School Districts to Close

- Review in each regional school district agreement the process for closing the district
- How are existing principal and interest obligations satisfied?
- How are liabilities distributed among the member towns?
- How are assets distributed among the member towns?
- The negotiated terms for disestablishment may need to be described in an amendment to the existing agreement