

PreK-12 Education Systems – Process Overview (3/14/14)

1. 2014 General Assembly declares that on [**July 1, 2010**]:
 - a. SUs will cease to exist
 - b. all districts (except interstate) are realigned into expanded PreK–12 Districts

2. 2014 General Assembly identifies Districts’ “Essential Components”
 - a. broad principles / criteria (similar to “pure” RED)
 - AOE develops indicators to measure criteria by [**DATE**]
 - b. availability of waivers to the 1,250 / 4 district criterion (#6 below)

3. Legal / Fiscal Work Group [*membership TBD*] [**Summer / Fall 2014**]
 - a. analyzes AND develops menu of lawful options intended to address many issues including school choice; tax rates; representation / voting; uniform data / accounting; etc.
 - b. in order to inform waivers (#6) during voluntary process AND phase #2 design process
 - c. reports to General Assembly by [**January 2015**] so it can adopt necessary legislation

4. Voluntary realignment of districts [**now through Town Meeting 2017**]
 - a. districts create plan / articles of agreement
 - i. availability of waivers from K-12 operating model (#6 below)
 - b. follow union school district formation process (also “pure” RED process) **PLUS**:
 - i. preliminary application – SBE reviews apps on own merits AND as a group
 - ii. final application – only if submitted preliminary application
 - c. SBE gives prelim and final approval only if no current district stranded
 - d. electorate approves articles of agreement by Town Meeting [**2017**]
 - e. tax rates don’t increase / decrease > 5% in one year for first 4 years

5. Design Team (“DT”) [**July 2014 through June 2020**]

Statewide Plan for districts not voluntarily realigned

 - i. informed by public engagement; monitoring of voluntary process; Work Group; waivers (#6 below)
 - ii. approval through the formal rulemaking process, which requires:
 - I. public comment
 - II. SBE adoption
 - III. LCAR process

6. Waivers – that ALSO inform Statewide Plan
 - a. SBE / AOE develop criteria / process (informed by Work Group (#3 above))
 - i. 1,250 / 4 district (#2 above)
 - ii. K-12 operating (#4 above)
 - b. criteria / process for voluntary by [**DATE**]
 - c. more nuanced criteria (more options?) to inform Statewide Plan by [**LATER DATE**]