

PreK-12 Education Systems (draft 3.1; 2/10/14)

Purpose: To create Pre-K-12 Education Systems that will provide students with more equitable access to world-class learning opportunities, greater flexibility in the management of public resources, and less volatility for taxpayers, while maintaining strong community involvement and support for our schools.

1. 2014 General Assembly enacts law:

- a. Declares that on July 1, 2018:
 - i. SUs will cease to exist
 - ii. All districts will be realigned into larger districts (PreK–12 Ed Systems) that take into account practical & geographical issues, historical boundaries, etc.
- b. Establishes broad criteria for the new districts, *e.g.*:
 - i. Each new district offers PreK-12
 - ii. At least 2 public high schools in each new district
 - iii. Nonoperating districts are integrated into new district– *e.g.*, *all* students within new district (incl those from previously operating districts) may enroll in any public or approved independent within the district’s boundaries, but no student may take public tuition dollars outside of new boundaries
 - iv. Minimum # of students [?]
 - v. One elected school board for each new district
 - vi. One budget for each new district based on district-wide grand list & tax rate
 - vii. District-wide hiring / negotiations / contract / “deployment”
 - viii. Community boards [elected or not? with authority for ____]
- c. Creates Design Team:
 - i. 9 members – 3 each appointed by Speaker, COC, & Governor (constituencies)
 - ii. Duties / authority
 - iii. Work of Team financed by _____
 - iv. Administrative and technical support from Agency of Ed
- d. Amends RED provisions as necessary

2. June – December 2014 — Design Team:

- a. Visits regions of State / conducts fact finding & research – considers, *e.g.*, practical & geographical issues, historical boundaries, transportation
- b. Establishes details about minimum criteria for PreK–12 Systems (#1b) to ensure that realignment will promote / achieve equitable access to world-class learning opportunities; fiscal efficiency; conditions for stable leadership; a connected, professional workforce; strong community involvement; stability and sustainability for taxpayers; a responsive accountability system; and flexibility in the deployment of resources
- c. Establishes details about transition process (see #3 and #4 below)
- d. Presents necessary legislative changes to General Assembly

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3. January 2015 – March 2016 — Current Districts:

- a. May design their own new districts that:
 - i. Meet the criteria established by for PreK–12 Systems in #1b
 - ii. Follow existing processes (e.g., 16 V.S.A. ch. 11 / “pure” REDs), including:
 - 1. Are reviewed by the Design Team [and/or the State Board] for consistency with the #1b criteria
 - 2. Design Team [/ SB] could require that a proposed new district include an existing district that proponent districts had excluded if:
 - a. Inclusion of the orphaned district would meet the criteria in #1b *and*
 - b. Exclusion would make it impossible for the orphaned district to meet the criteria with other existing districts
 - 3. Are approved by the electorate no later than Town Meeting 2016
- b. *Note:* Even though voting occurs by March 2016, the new district does not come into existence until July 1, 2017 *or* 2018 – so vote on new budget in March 2017 or 2018

4. April 2016–June 2017 — Design Team [and/or State Board]:

- a. Reviews voluntary districts created per #3
- b. Creates new districts that meet PreK-12 Ed System criteria in #1b for all remaining, pre-existing districts that did not voluntarily form a new district per #3 above
- c. Districts do not have the ability to appeal assignment / realignment (because they had opportunity to
- d. Reports to General Assembly regularly with progress - but does not need additional authorization for resulting map because it is based on the legislatively-established PreK-12 Ed System criteria

5. July 1, 2018:

- a. All new districts are in place (some may have begun on July 1, 2017)
- b. All pre-existing districts and SUs cease to exist