

H.883 – PreK-12 Education Systems – Process Overview

1. 2014 General Assembly declares that on July 1, 2020:
 - a. SUs will cease to exist
 - b. districts (except interstate) are realigned into Expanded Districts responsible for the education of all resident prekindergarten-grade 12 students

2. 2014 General Assembly identifies “Essential Components” of Expanded Districts
 - a. broad principles / criteria (similar to “pure” RED)
 - AOE develops indicators to measure compliance – to GA by January 1, 2015
 - b. availability of waivers to the size criterion of 1,250 ADM / 4 districts (#6 below)

3. Legal / Fiscal Research Group
 - 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 realignment (#4) & Statewide Plan (#5)
 - c. reports to GA by January 1, 2015 for review / legislation

4. Voluntary realignment of districts now through July 1, 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 any time before July 1, 2016 – AOE and SBE review
 - ii. final application – only if submitted preliminary application
 - c. SBE gives prelim and final approval only if no current district is stranded
 - d. electorate approves articles of agreement by July 1, 2017
 - e. (districts currently exploring REDs go through this prelim/final process as well)

5. Design Team (“DT”) July 2014 through June 2020
 - a. 9 members appointed by Speaker, CoC, and Gov in collaborative process to ensure broad diversity of knowledge/experience/opinions re: VT education & communities
 - b. develops proposed Statewide Plan for districts not voluntarily realigned
 - i. informed by public engagement; monitoring of voluntary process; AOE indicators (#2); work of Research Group (#3); and waiver process (#6 below)
 - ii. approval through the formal rulemaking process, which requires:
 - I. public comment
 - II. SBE adoption
 - III. LCAR process – final Plan adopted by July 1, 2018

6. Waivers – work on this element will also inform design of the Statewide Plan
 - SBE develops criteria / process (informed by Research Group (#3)) by May 1, 2015 for (i) 1,250 / 4 district (#2 above) and (ii) K-12 operating (#4 above)