

Report on Act 46 of 2015

**Section 6(d) Accelerated Activity; Supervisory Union
Becoming a Supervisory District; Enhanced Tax Incentives;
Small School Support; Data and Report.**

Report on Act 153 of 2010

**Section 8(a) Regional Education Districts; Status of Merger
Discussions.**

REPORT

January 2018

**Report to the House Committees on Education,
Appropriations, and Ways and Means and to the
Senate Committees on Education, Appropriations,
and Finance.**

**Submitted by Secretary of Education
Rebecca Holcombe**



I. Legislation

[Act 46 of 2015](#): *An act relating to making amendments to education funding, education spending, and education governance*

[Act 153 of 2010](#): *An act relating to voluntary school district merger, virtual merger, supervisory union duties, and including secondary students with disabilities in senior year activities and ceremonies*

II. Summary

Act 46 (2015), Section 6(d) requires the Secretary to report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance “regarding the districts merging under [the accelerated merger process created by Sec. 6(d) of Act 46], conclusions drawn from the data collected, and any recommendations for legislative action.”

Act 153 (2010), Section 8 requires the Secretary to report to the House and Senate Committees on Education “regarding the status of [Regional Education District (“RED”)] merger discussions and votes.

III. Report

A. Overview

The stated purpose of Act 46 is “to encourage and support local decisions and actions that:

- (1) provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities statewide;
- (2) lead students to achieve or exceed the State’s Education Quality Standards, adopted as rules by the State Board of Education at the direction of the General Assembly;
- (3) maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff;
- (4) promote transparency and accountability; and
- (5) are delivered at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.”

[Act 46, Sec. 2]

Act 46 established a multi-year, phased process that provides multiple opportunities for school districts to unify existing disparate governance entities into “sustainable governance structures” that are designed to meet the identified educational and fiscal goals, while recognizing and reflecting local priorities.

The Act stated that the preferred model of governance is a unified union school district (*i.e.*, PK-12) that (1) provides for the education of its resident students either by operating all grades; by operating PK-6 or PK-8 and tuitioning the remaining grades; or by tuitioning all grades and (2) is large enough to function effectively as a supervisory district (*i.e.*, a single-district supervisory

union (“SU”). The identified operating / tuitioning structures represent the most common governance structures in the State.

Act 46 acknowledged that the creation of a supervisory district is not always “possible” or “the best” means to accomplish the Act’s stated goals and that there will be SUs with multiple merged and/or unmerged districts in some regions of the State (“Alternative Structures”).

Act 46 created or incorporated three incentivized phases of voluntary merger, all of which rely upon a decades-old statutory process for the creation of union school districts. Districts that do not pursue or do not expect to achieve a voluntary merger by July 1, 2019 were required to evaluate their ability to meet or exceed State goals, to talk with other districts, and to present proposals to the State Board of Education. During 2018, the Secretary of Education will develop a proposal and the State Board will issue a final statewide design that redraws SU boundaries and realigns unmerged districts into more sustainable models of governance that meet State goals - to the extent the changes are *necessary, possible, and practicable* for the region. The process of self-study, regional conversations, and recommendations is necessary both to support local continuous improvement and to inform State Board decision-making.

The overarching phased nature of Act 46, as amended by Act 49 (2017), is apparent:

- Voluntary Mergers

After self-evaluation/analysis and regional conversations per 16 VSA Chapter 11

- Accelerated – “Phase 1 Mergers” (Act 46 of 2015)
All districts in an SU become a single unified district
 - voter approval: 07.01.16
 - fully operational: 07.01.17
- REDs & Variations – “Phase 2 Mergers” (Acts 153 of 2010 & 156 of 2012)
(includes Side-by-Side mergers & MUUSDs)
 - voter approval: 11.30.17 (Act 49 of 2017)
 - fully operational: by 07.01.19
- Later “Conventional” Mergers – “Phase 3 Mergers” (Act 46)
 - voter approval: no legislative deadline
 - fully operational: by 07.01.19

- Proposals by Nonmerging Districts (Act 46 and Act 49)

After self-evaluation/analysis and regional conversations per Act 46, Sec. 9

- proposal due: 12.26.17

- Secretary of Education’s Statewide *Proposal* (Act 46)

- proposal due: 06.01.18

- State Board of Education’s *Final* Statewide Plan (Act 46)

Governance changes to SUs and districts ordered to the extent necessary, possible, and practicable

- issued: by 11.30.18
- effective: 07.01.19

B. Agency Activity

Act 46 and related governance laws have prompted numerous community conversations within and among districts and SUs throughout the State. In addition, Act 46 has required rigorous self-evaluation by all districts, regardless of whether they merge or propose to retain the same governance system. We expect this evaluation to lead to changes, even in districts that do not change governance.

The Agency of Education is actively involved in answering questions and providing guidance directly to school boards, SU boards and staff, merger study committees, legislators, the general public, and the press.

The Agency's [School Governance Webpage](#) is organized into three separate pages. The pages provide substantive information as well as links to statutes, fact sheets, worksheets, guidance documents, answers to frequently asked questions, and merger proposals submitted to the State Board of Education. The three pages are:

- [Options](#) – Provides an overview of the multi-year process created by Act 46 that required each school district in the State to conduct a rigorous self-examination of its current ability to meet or exceed the educational and fiscal goals of Act 46 and consider the opportunities that can arise from regional cooperation, including though merger.

- [Guidance](#) – Provides links to information regarding, *e.g.*, creating a unified union school district pursuant to decades-old statutory provisions, including initial exploration of joint activity; formal “§ 706 study committee” conversations; options for [membership on a unified school board](#), and the creation of “alternative governance structure” proposals. Most of the [data needed for self-evaluation](#) – whether in connection with a proposed merger or an “alternative governance structure” under Act 46, Sec. 9 – is also available through links on this page.
 - A separate page available through the Guidance page provides [post-merger tips](#) on targeted issues, such as a checklist of tasks for SU business offices during the transition phase and FAQs regarding the respective duties and authority of the merging boards and the new unified board.

- [Merger Activity](#) – Provides a map of current activity and a synopsis of community votes on proposals to create unified union school districts. It also includes links to access each study committee’s report, proposed articles of agreement, and appendices that have been approved by the State Board of Education and presented to the local electorate for a vote.

Prior to recommending a merger proposal to the State Board of Education, the Secretary and her Governance Team submit each proposal to a rigorous review that involves multiple conversations with the § 706b merger study committee or its representatives (*e.g.*, its chair; school board members; its attorney; its consultant; and/or the superintendent(s)) as well as consideration of several revised drafts of the study committee’s final report, proposed articles of agreement, and supporting data. In addition, the Agency frequently answers questions posed by community members and responds to information requests from citizens groups.

In 2017:

- The Agency reviewed and provided guidance to study committees, communities, and the State Board of Education in connection with 28 merger-related proposals.
 - Ten of these proposals took advantage of the 2017 Legislature’s extension of the “Phase 2 Merger” deadline from July 1 to November 30, 2017, causing the Agency’s extensive involvement with merger proposals to extend well into the autumn.
- During the summer and autumn, the Agency provided guidance regarding the new “3-by-1” and “2-by-2-by-1” structures created by the 2017 Legislature, and reviewed requests submitted to the State Board by six communities asking for the Board’s approval to be the “1.”
- The Agency provided guidance regarding numerous other governance-related issues presented to the State Board, such as multiple requests by newly-merged districts for SU boundary changes and Vernon’s request to withdraw from an existing union high school district under the special exemption enacted by the 2017 Legislature.
- The Agency assisted the State Board of Education to finalize its 3400 Rules regarding proposals presented by non-merging districts under Act 46, Sec. 9 (the so-called “Alternative Governance” proposals), including integration of amendments into the draft rules that were requested by school boards and members of the general public.
- The Agency provided guidance to school boards and community members in districts that do not expect to be in a newly-merged district by July 1, 2019 regarding the preparation of Sec. 9 proposals and the process by which they will be reviewed.
- (On a related topic, the Agency provided guidance regarding the new criteria under which small school grants will be awarded beginning in 2019 and assisted the State Board to begin considering the metrics it will adopt – as required by the 2015 Legislature – to evaluate applications for grants under the new criteria.)

C. Governance Activity – As of January 18, 2018

i. Unified Union School Districts

From July 1, 2015 through January 10, 2018 there has been *a net reduction of 108 districts*:

- Voters in **135** towns in **31** SUs:
 - Voted to merge **143** school districts into **35** unified districts
 - **31** unified union school districts (responsible for PK-12)
 - **4** modified unified union school districts (“MUUSDs”)

In addition, the Mount Mansfield MUUSD was created in 2014 when voters in **5** towns voted to merge **6** districts into **1** new unified district – for totals of voters in **140** towns / **149** former districts / **36** new unified districts – *a net reduction of 113 districts*.

- The 35 post-Act 46 districts are organized to provide for K-12 education as follows:
 - **21** operate all grades
 - **12** operate K-6 or K-8 and pay tuition for the remaining grades
 - **2** pay tuition for all grades
- In February, voters will reconsider their November 2017 approval of **2** proposals.
- Votes are final for **5** proposals that were not approved by the voters, where the districts have not subsequently presented a revised proposal or indicated they are likely to do so.

The post-Act 46 activity also:

- Eliminated at least **4** SUs through redrawn SU boundaries
- Eliminated an additional **8** SUs and their related SU Boards through transformation of SUs into Supervisory Districts (single-district SUs)

The 35 post-Act 46 districts become fully operational in different years:

- July 1, 2016 – **4** unified districts became operational
- July 1, 2017 – **8** unified districts became operational
- July 1, 2018 – **19** unified districts become operational
- July 1, 2019 – **4** unified districts become operational

For more detail, please see the unification table at *Appendix A* and the map at *Appendix B*.

ii. Students

Of the 78,733 *Kindergarten*-Grade 12 students living in Vermont in the 2017-2018 academic year, approximately **52,077 (66 percent)** of them live (or will live) in a unified school district:

- Unified school districts created since Act 46 **33,337** (42 percent of all VT students)
- Mount Mansfield MUUSD (before Act 46) 2,245
- Existing supervisory districts (Burlington, etc.) 16,495

D. Anticipated Governance Activity – 2018

In 2018, the Agency anticipates that it will receive and review at least three new merger proposals and it will begin collecting and analyzing preliminary data from the 12 unified districts that are fully operational. However, the Agency’s 2018 governance-related energies will focus primarily on reviewing the proposals submitted by school boards under Act 46, Sec. 9 (as amended by Act 49, Sec. 10).

The Legislature required the board of each school district in the State that will not be in a newly unified structure by July 1, 2019 to submit a “Sec. 9 Proposal” by December 26, 2017 in which the school board:

- analyzes the district’s current ability to meet the Act 46 Goals;
- recounts its conversations with other districts on ways to improve opportunity, equity, and efficiency regionally; and
- presents a proposal to improve by either:
 - merging with other districts;
 - working with other districts in some other way; or
 - retaining the same governance structure.

Under current law, the Sec. 9 Proposal process will proceed roughly as follows:

- January-May 2018:
 - The Secretary of Education and Agency staff review all Sec. 9 Proposals and all other available information.
 - School boards have “conversations” about their proposals with the Secretary.
 - School boards have the opportunity to supplement and/or amend their proposals.
 - The State Board has copies of all Sec. 9 Proposals and each member begins to review them.
- June 1, 2018: The Secretary of Education develops and presents a proposed statewide plan that may incorporate a school board’s Sec. 9 Proposal in full, in part, or not at all.
- June-October, 2018:
 - The State Board reviews all Sec. 9 Proposals and other available information.
 - School boards present testimony to the State Board and answer its questions about their proposals.

- School boards have the opportunity to supplement and/or amend their proposals.
- November 30, 2018: The State Board issues the Final Statewide Plan that will merge districts and redraw SU boundaries to the extent necessary to achieve sustainable governance structures capable of meeting/exceeding the Act 46 Goals of equity, excellence, and efficiency.
 - The Final Plan may incorporate the Secretary’s proposed plan in full, in part, or not at all.
 - The Final Plan may incorporate a school board’s Sec. 9 Proposal in full, in part, or not at all.

As of January 17, 2018, the school boards of 75 school districts in 68 communities have submitted a total of 38 proposals under Sec. 9. The Agency anticipates that several more will arrive before the end of the month. While some school boards propose retaining an SU with multiple member town school districts – even where those districts share the same operating / tuitioning structure – other school boards believe that the best way forward is for the State Board to require the merger proposed by a local study committee but rejected by the voters of some or all “necessary” districts.

For more detail regarding school districts that submitted proposals under Sec. 9, please see the table at *Appendix C*.

E. Observations

Of the 35 unified districts created since the Legislature enacted Act 46, four districts became operational on July 1, 2016 and eight districts became operational on July 1, 2017.

A primary conclusion from this work has been that successful system transformation takes time and is challenging work. Newly merged boards need to grieve letting go of who they were, before they can focus on what their new community might become. In order to build strong collaborative governance, merging communities need to take the time to build trust, develop new habits for working together, and embrace and develop a shared and coherent vision. In communities that have taken the time to build trust and common cause, the subsequent work of collaborating to reduce cost and improve quality comes easier. As one superintendent noted: “We’ve learned we have to go slow now, in order to go fast later.”

In addition, many merging systems have chosen to see unification as a chance to think through systems comprehensively. For example, a cohort has worked with Nate Levenson of the District Management Group on a variety of systems issues, including plans for using attrition to shift the skill sets employed by the district and to manage staffing ratios.

i. Educational Consequences

In general, communities that have approved creation of unified union school districts anticipate that the flexibility inherent in a unified structure will enable educational benefits such as:

- Increased ability to share staff, resources, and programs among schools.
- Opportunity to offer intradistrict K-6 or K-8 choice among the schools the unified union district operates.
- Transformation of the district's elementary schools into magnet schools.
- Improved communication within and between departments and grade levels (to support, *e.g.*, better alignment of world languages across buildings).
- Elimination of bureaucratic redundancies and centralization of supports so that administrators are able to focus on their roles as educational leaders.
- Creation of a unified program of educator recruitment, induction, and mentoring, including for paraprofessionals and substitute teachers.

Some new districts will reconfigure grades to address shrinking population. Such reconfiguration not only will create more robust peer groups, but also will yield other educational benefits. Reconfigurations include:

- White River Unified School District (will be operational July 2018): Currently, both the Bethel and Royalton School Districts operate schools offering PK-12 education. In its first year of operation, the White River Unified School District will operate one middle school (located in Bethel) and one high school (in Royalton).
 - The middle and high school students in these towns said they wanted a bigger peer group, and in this new district they will have that.
 - The savings that result from bringing more students in the same grade levels under each roof is enabling the new district to expand the course offerings and extracurricular opportunities available to its students dramatically – even as the district saves hundreds of thousands of dollars every year moving forward.
 - From the cost savings realized through unification, the new district will also:
 - Hire two additional interventionist to work with the most needy students, helping them to get back on par with their peers.
 - Add an experiential, self-directed environmental program in which students will research and explore the natural world.
 - Greater affordability at the middle and high school levels will protect the elementary programs in both towns. In addition, because teachers can move between the buildings, however, these small elementary schools will now have a broader array of programming, including music, world languages, arts and STEM.
- Orange Washington Unified Union School District (will be operational July 2018): The Orange Washington district will restructure the delivery of PK-8 education beginning in its first year of operation. Prior to unification, both town school districts operate schools

offering PK-8. Beginning on July 1, 2018, the unified district will operate one PreK-4 Primary School and one 5-8 Upper Elementary School using the existing facilities located in the two communities.

- Harwood Unified Union School District (operational July 2017): The Harwood district currently provides education to the students of its six member towns in seven buildings: four PK-6 schools, one PK-4 school, one 5-8 school, and one 7-12 school. The district's superintendent has proposed changing this model so that all students in Grades 5 and 6 are in one building and all students in Grades 7 and 8 are in another.

The 12 operational districts have seen other positive educational consequences arise from unification. For example:

- Mill River Unified Union School District (operational July 2016): The district has instituted a system of elementary school choice. Although transportation is not currently offered, savings from unification will enable the district to offer transportation if the need arises. The district has also been able to maintain its small town schools while reducing costs to taxpayers.
- Otter Valley Unified Union School District (operational July 2016): Prior to unification, some small elementary schools in the SU were unable to hire nurses, librarians, (etc.) to work one day per week. In contrast, other elementary schools were offering full-time contracts for those positions although they did not have a need for full-time staff. Unification has allowed positions to be shared among the buildings so that even students in the smallest schools have access to those opportunities.

ii. Financial Consequences

Districts have been conservative in projecting savings in initial years. Proposals for merger have looked at immediately quantifiable annual cost reductions – such as the need for fewer audits, payment of fewer board member stipends, reduced legal costs, bulk purchasing, and other miscellaneous savings. Projections in this category have varied from a potential annual cost reduction of less than \$20,000 to a potential annual cost reduction of \$300,000, with most in the \$100,000-200,000 range. Proposals with lower projections were generally from SUs that included an existing union high school district and that already had a high level of coordinated services, bulk purchasing, etc. throughout the SU. In these situations, large initial savings from consolidation of services and operations were not expected because many of the savings in this category had already been realized.

Proposals for merger have not identified specific dollar amounts for the savings anticipated to arise from, for example, sharing staff among schools, staff attrition, grade-reconfiguration, facility repurposing, and centralized maintenance services and training – but have listed items such as these from which they expect to see savings.

Of the 35 new union school districts created since July 1, 2015, 12 are now operational. The four that became operational on July 1, 2016 did so very soon after their voters approved merger. As

a result, the budgets for their initial operating year were created by combining each merging district's voter-approved budget. Eight additional districts became operational in July 2017.

Early data from these 12 districts reveal cost savings that meet or exceed projections. For example:

- Mill River Unified Union School District (operational July 2016):
 - Creation of a new position responsible for the buildings and grounds of all schools operated by the unified district. By centralizing these functions, the unified district realized a net savings of \$250,000 in the first year, even after paying the associated salary and benefits for the new position.
 - Heading in FY2019, the unified district anticipates a surplus in excess of \$850,000 due to:
 - staffing changes due to retirement attrition;
 - overall budget efficiencies;
 - special education savings;
 - buildings and grounds-related savings;
 - increased elementary and high school tuition revenue; and
 - pre-merger surplus brought to the unified district by the merging districts.
- Otter Valley Unified Union School District (operational July 2016): Prior to FY2018, the district operated K-6 programs in both Whiting and Sudbury. Each school employed three teachers, enrolled approximately 30 students, and had only multiage classrooms. Unification has enabled creation of one primary (with separate classes for K, 1, and 2-3) and one "intermediate" campus (with separate classes for 4, 5, 6).
- Essex Westford Unified Union School District (operational July 2017):
 - Consolidation of two central office administrations offered the greatest, and most sustainable, cost reductions for this new unified district. In the first year of operation, three central administration positions were eliminated – a superintendent, a business manager, and a bookkeeper position – for a total annual savings of nearly \$358,000 in salary and benefits. The unified district anticipates that the FY2019 budget process will eliminate an additional four administration positions, for potential savings of \$400,000.
 - Elimination of the need to make tuition payments for Westford students attending Essex High School resulted in savings of approximately \$100,000 in FY2018.
- Kingdom East Unified Union School District and NEK Choice School District (both operational July 2018): Creation of these two new unified districts will result in the elimination of one supervisory union for an anticipated net annual savings of approximately \$500,000 in central administration costs. New districts also report that unification has provided opportunities to "even-out" enrollment among schools and to improve student-to-teacher ratios.

Appendices

- A Governance Activity – Approved Proposals as of January 10, 2018
- B Governance Activity Map – as of January 10, 2018
- C Sec. 9 Proposals – as of January 17, 2018

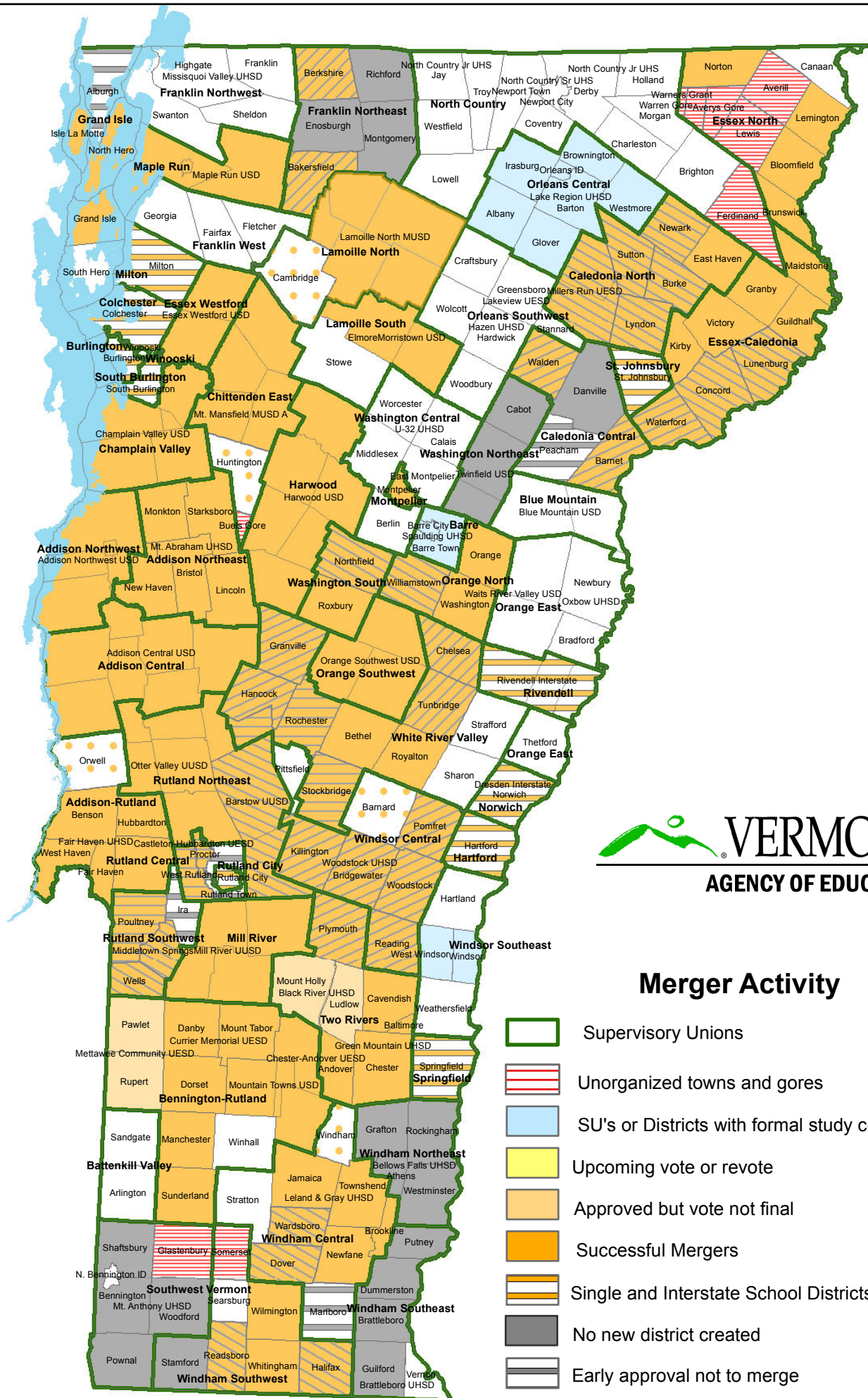
Appendix A: Approved Unification Proposals as of January 10, 2018

New UUSD Name	Operating/ Tuitioning	SU Involved (dists merging, if not all)	Assumes Full Operation	Town Voting YES	Dists Voting YES	K-12 FY18 ADM of Merged	ADM of Districts Voting NO
Addison Central School District	PK-12 o	Addison C (became an SD)	07.01.2017	7	8	1,649.31	
Addison NW School District	PK-12 o	Addison NW (became an SD)	07.01.2017	5	4	883.03	
Barstow UUSD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Rutland NE (Chittenden, Mendon)	07.01.2016	2	2	294.14	
Caledonia Cooperative UUSD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Caledonia C (Walden and Barnet) & Essex Cal (Waterford)	07.01.2018	3	3	569.94	
Central Vermont UUSD	PK-12 o	Orange North (Williamstown) & Washington South (Northfield)	07.01.2018	2	2	976.33	
Champlain Islands UUSD	PK-6 o 7-12 t	Grand Isle (Grand Isle, Isle la Motte, North Hero)	07.01.2019	3	3	384.16	
Champlain Valley School District	PK-12 o	Chittenden S (became an SD)	07.01.2017	5	6	3787.54	
Elmore-Morristown UUSD	PK-12 o	Lamoille South	07.01.2016	2	2	776.51	
Essex-Westford Educational Community UUSD #51	PK-12 o	Essex SD & Chittenden Central - became new SD #65	07.01.2017	3	4	3,473.61	
First Branch USD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	WRVSU (Chelsea- Tunbridge)	07.01.2018	2	2	334.87	
Franklin NE PK-8 UUSD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Franklin NE (Bakersfield, Berkshire)	07.01.2019	2	2	453.94	
Granville-Hancock USD	PK-12 t	WRVSU (Granville- Hancock)	07.01.2018	2	2	87.8	
Green Mountain USD	PK-12 o	Two Rivers (Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Green Mtn UHSD)	07.01.2018	4	4	633.75	
Harwood UUSD	PK-12 o	Washington West (became an SD)	07.01.2017	6	6	1,674.18	










New UUSD Name	Operating/ Tuitioning	SU Involved (dists merging, if not all)	Assumes Full Operation	Town Voting YES	Dists Voting YES	K-12 FY18 ADM of <i>Merged</i>	ADM of Districts Voting <i>NO</i>
Kingdom East UUSD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Cal N (<i>Burke, Lyndon, Newark, Sutton, Millers Run & Essex-Cal (Cncrd, Lnbrg) (became an SD)</i>)	07.01.2018	8	7	1,644.01	
Lamoille North MUUSD	PK-12 o (<i>Cambridge: 7-12 only</i>)	Lamoille North	07.01.2017	5	6	1,321.26	Cambridge - 296.85
Maple Run Unified School District	PK-12 o	Franklin C (<i>became an SD</i>)	07.01.2017	3	4	2,250.19	
Mill River UUSD	PK-12 o	Rutland South (<i>became an SD</i>)	07.01.2016	4	5	712.58	
Montpelier-Roxbury School District	PK-12 o	Montpelier and Washington S	07.01.2018	2	2	1,099.42	
Mt Abraham Unified School District	PK-12 o	Addison NE (<i>became an SD</i>)	07.01.2018	5	6	1,355.80	
NEK Choice School District	PK-12 t	Cal N (<i>E Hven</i>); Essex-Cal (<i>Granby, Gldhll, Kirby, Maidstne, Victory</i>); & Essex N (<i>Blmfld, Brnswok, Lmngtn, Nrtn</i>)	07.01.2018	10	10	266.15	
Orange Southwest UUSD	PK-12 o	Orange SW (<i>became an SD</i>)	07.01.2017	3	4	783.31	
Orange-Washington UUSD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Orange North	07.01.2018	2	2	265.27	
Otter Valley UUSD	PK-12 o	Rutland NE (<i>Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford. Sudbury, Whiting, OVUHSD</i>)	07.01.2016	6	7	1,144.56	
Quarry Valley UUSD	PK-12 o	Rutland C (<i>W Rutland, Proctor</i>) & Rutland SW (<i>Poultney</i>)	07.01.2018	3	3	907.52	
River Valleys USD	PK-6 o 7-12 t	Windham C (<i>Dover and Wardsboro</i>)	07.01.2019	2	2	234.70	
Rochester-Stockbridge Unified District	PK-6 o 7-1 2t	WRVSU (<i>Roch;Stckbrdge</i>)	07.01.2018	2	2	145.45	
Slate Valley MUUSD	PK-12 o (<i>Orwell: 9-12 only</i>)	Addison- Rutland	07.01.2018	5	6	1,106.42	Orwell - 121.5
Southern Valley UUSD	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Windham SW (<i>Halifax, Rdsbro</i>)	07.01.2018	2	2	151.22	

New UUSD Name	Operating/ Tuitioning	SU Involved (dists merging, if not all)	Assumes Full Operation	Town Voting YES	Dists Voting YES	K-12 FY18 ADM of Merged	ADM of Districts Voting NO
Taconic & Green Regional School District	PK-8 o 9-12 t	Bennington Rutland (Danby, Dorset, Manchstr, Mtn Towns (Weston, Peru, Landgrove, Lndndrry), Mt Tabor, Sndrlnd)	07.01.2018	9	7	1,613.54	
Twin Valley Unified Union District	PK-12 o	Windham SW (Whitingham & Wilmington)	07.01.2018	2	2	370.40	
Wells Springs UUSD	PK-6 o / 7- 12 t	Rutland SW	07.01.2018	2	2	245.25	
West River MUUSD	PK-12 o (Windham: 7-12 only)	Windham C (Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townsend & {Windham})	07.01.2019	4	5	452.91	Windham - 15
White River Unified District	PK-12o	WRVSU (Bethel- Royalton)	07.01.2018	2	2	533.86	
Windsor Central MUUSD	PK-12 o (Barnard: 7-12 only)	Windsor C ({Barnard}, Bridgewater, Killington, Pomfret, Reading, Woodstock) & Two Rivers (Plymouth)	07.01.2018	6	7	753.84	Barnard - 62
TOTAL:				135	143	33,336.77	
RECONSIDERATION							
Ludlow-Mount Holly UUSD – Yes, but Ludlow reconsideration vote Feb 6	PK-12o then PK-6o/7-12t	Two Rivers (Mt Holly, Ludlow, Black River UHSD)	(07.01.18)				
Mettawee School District - Yes, but Rupert reconsideration vote Feb 15	PK-6o/7-12t	Bennington- Rutland (Pawlet, Rupert, Mettawee UESD)	(07.01.18)				

Appendix B: Merger Activity Map



Merger Activity

-  Supervisory Unions
-  Unorganized towns and gores
-  SU's or Districts with formal study committees
-  Upcoming vote or revote
-  Approved but vote not final
-  Successful Mergers
-  Single and Interstate School Districts
-  No new district created
-  Early approval not to merge

Appendix C: Sec. 9 Proposals as of January 17, 2018

Bold italics indicate entity that submitted proposal - e.g. "Winhall" = from Winhall School District individually; "Franklin West" = from all districts in FW SU jointly

SU Name	District(s)	Total Districts	towns (or USDs)	Sec. 9 Proposal Received	Notes
Addison-Rutland	Orwell				Slate Valley MUUSD
Barre	Barre City Barre Town Spaulding Union				preparing new merger proposal
Battenkill Valley	<i>Arlington</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Sandgate</i>	1	1	1	
Bennington-Rutland	<i>Winhall</i>	1	1	1	
	Pawlet Rupert Mettawee Union				February 15 revote
<i>Blue Mountain</i>	Blue Mtn (Groton, Ryegate, Wells River)	1	1	1	
Caledonia C	<i>Danville</i>	1	1	1	
Chittenden East	<i>Huntington</i>	1	1	1	Mt Mansfield MUUSD
Essex North	Canaan				
Franklin NE	<i>Montgomery</i>	1	1	1	
	Enosburgh				expect soon
	Richford				expect soon
<i>Franklin NW</i>	Franklin Highgate Swanton Miss. V Union Sheldon	5	4	1	
<i>Franklin West</i>	Fairfax Fletcher Georgia	3	3	1	
Grand Isle	<i>South Hero</i>	1	1	1	
Lamoille North	Cambridge				Lamoille N MUUSD
<i>Lamoille South</i>	Elmore-Mrristwn Stowe	2	2	1	
<i>North Country</i>	Brighton Charleston Derby Holland Jay	13	12	1	NC Union High School

SU Name	District(s)	Total Districts	towns (or USDs)	Sec. 9 Proposal Received	Notes
	Lowell Morgan Newport City Newport Town Troy Westfield N Country Union Coventry				
Orange East	<i>Bradford & Oxbow Union</i>	2	1	1	
	<i>Newbury</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Waits River UUSD (Corinth-Topsham)</i>	1	1	1	
	Thetford				
Orleans Central	Albany Barton ID Brownington Glover Irasburg Orleans ID Westmore Lake Rgn Union				Considering preparing new merger proposal
<i>Orleans SW</i>	Craftsbury Wolcott Greensboro Hardwick Stannard Woodbury Lakeview Union (Greensboro & Stannard) Hazen Union (Greensboro, Hdwck, Wdbry)	7	6	1	
Southwest Vermont	<i>Bennington</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>N Bennington</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Pownal</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Shaftsbury</i>	1	1	1	
	Woodford				revote January 9: No
	Mt A Union				
Two Rivers	Ludlow Mount Holly Black River				February 6 revote

SU Name	District(s)	Total Districts	towns (or USDs)	Sec. 9 Proposal Received	Notes
<i>Washington Central</i>	Berlin Calais East Montpelier Middlesex Worcester Union #32	6	5	1	
Washington NE	<i>Cabot</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Twinfield (Marshfield & Plainfield)</i>	1	1	1	
White River Valley	<i>Sharon</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Strafford</i>	1	1	1	
Windham C	<i>Stratton</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Windham</i>	1	1	1	West River MUUSD
<i>Windham NE</i>	Athens Grafton Westminster Rockingham Bellows Falls Union	5	4	1	
Windham SE	<i>Brattleboro</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Dummerston</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Guilford</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Putney</i>	1	1	1	
	Brattleboro Union	1			
	<i>Vernon</i>	1	1	1	
Windham SW	<i>Searsburg</i>	1	1	1	
	<i>Stamford</i>	1	1	1	
Windsor Central	<i>Barnard</i>	1	1	1	Windsor C MUUSD
	<i>Pittsfield</i>	1	1	1	
Windsor SE	<i>Hartland Weathersfield</i>	2	2	1	
	West Windsor Windsor				merger vote in March
TOTALS		75	68	38	