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School District Governance

July 1, 2013 – July 1, 2019

Governance Changes:

- FY13 – Prior to enactment of Acts 153, 156, and 46 = **276 districts**
- FY16 – Prior to enactment of Act 46 = **267 districts**
- FY20 – After voter-approved mergers under Acts 153, 156, and 46 = **154 districts**
After State Board mergers = **120 districts**
(Potential mergers of NMEDs with MUUSDs = **116**)

Net Reduction since FY13

122 – Due to new union districts created under Acts 153, 156, & 46
34 – Due to SBE's Final Report and Order
(4 – Potential, due to NMEDs/MUUSDs)

- 59 SUs in FY16 – 51 SUs as of November 30, 2018 (two will not be dissolved until July 1, 2019 and July 1, 2021).

Voter-Approved Mergers:

- Since the enactment of Act 46 (2015):
 - Voters in 151 districts located in 141 towns formed 38 new union school districts
 - 3 of the 38 new union districts were not eligible for tax rate reductions and other transitional assistance and were therefore subject to consideration in the State Board's Final Report and Order
- Since the enactment of Acts 153 (2010), 156 (2012), and 46:
 - Voters in 161 districts located in 146 towns formed 39 new union school districts
 - These numbers do not double-count the Mtn Towns RED or its member towns, which were involved in two mergers since FY13
- Of the 7 merger proposals that the voters did not approve (using the most recent vote if there was more than one proposal; not including proposals that were later approved):
 - Voters in 8 districts located in 9 towns approved merger
 - Voters in 18 districts in 18 towns did not approve merger
(When counting districts, the numbers above do not include 5 union high school districts because the UHSD voters vote as members of the elementary district)
- In addition, in 8 merger proposals that resulted in a new union district, the voters in 8 districts did not approve the proposal and are not members of the new district

Section 9 Proposals:

- **46 districts or groups of districts submitted oral or written Sec. 9 Proposals**
 - **96 districts**, including 11 Union High School Districts
 - 90 towns
 - Of the 46 proposals
 - 9 proposed that the SBE require merger
 - 30 proposed to retain the same governance structure
 - 3 requested the opportunity to propose merger to their voters or to create an interstate school district
 - 4 either made no proposal or proposed something that the State Board has no authority to require

The State Board's Final Report and Order:

- SBE's Report and Order addresses the **96 districts**:
 - **Merged 45** districts in 39 towns to:
 - **Form 11 new** union school districts
 - **Enlarge 2 existing** union school districtsNet reduction of 34 districts
 - **Conditionally** required an additional **4** town elementary districts to merge with 4 MUUSDs
 - **Did not change** the governance structure of **47** districts

Note: It is not easy to determine with how many of the Sec. 9 Proposals the SBE agreed and with how many it disagreed – e.g., a group of districts submitted a Sec. 9 Proposal jointly, and the SBE agreed with the proposal as to some of the districts and disagreed with it as to others (e.g., Orleans Southwest districts, Windham Northeast districts)