

School Board Membership – Proportionality Page 1, Link 8

	Proportional-by-Town Model	At-Large Model ¹	Modified At-Large (aka “Hybrid”) Model
Apportionment	Articles of Agreement apportion a specified number of board seats to each town within the union school district	No seats are apportioned to any town within the union district	Articles of Agreement apportion a specified number of board seats to each town within the union district
Apportioned Numbers	The number of seats apportioned is based on the most recent decennial census (town’s population as compared to total population of union school district)	N/A	Articles of Agreement base number of seats apportioned to each town on any agreed-upon method
Constitutional Proportionality	Strictly required at the town level – numbers apportioned to each town must be closely proportional to the town’s relative population <i>Note:</i> Can weight each board member’s vote to achieve proportionality	Not required at the town level – proportionality is achieved at the (multi-town) district-level	Not required at the town level Although board seats are apportioned to each town, proportionality is achieved by <u>voting</u> at the (multi-town) district-level
Residence	Board member must reside in town to which seat is apportioned	Board members can reside anywhere in the union district	Board member must reside in town to which seat is apportioned
Nominating Petition	The nominating petition can be signed only by the voters of the town to which the seat is apportioned	The nominating petition can be signed by any voter in the union district	The default is the same as the Proportional-by-Town Model, but Articles of Agreement can provide otherwise
Election of Member	Only the voters in the town can vote on the slate of candidates for that town’s apportioned seat(s)	All voters in the district vote on a single slate of candidates for the entire union district	<u>All</u> voters in the district vote on the same list of candidates for the seats apportioned to each town
Weighted Voting	Articles of Agreement can assign different weights to each board member’s vote	N/A – Cannot assign a different weight to any board member’s vote	N/A

Note: Articles of Agreement can provide for a combination of models – *e.g.*, a union district with 4 towns governed by a 7 member board, 3 of whom are selected under the At-Large Model and 4 of whom (1 per town) are selected under the Modified At-Large/Hybrid Model

¹ See 16 V.S.A. § 706e(c) for restrictions on nomination and candidacy of initial At-Large board members in a proposed union school district.