

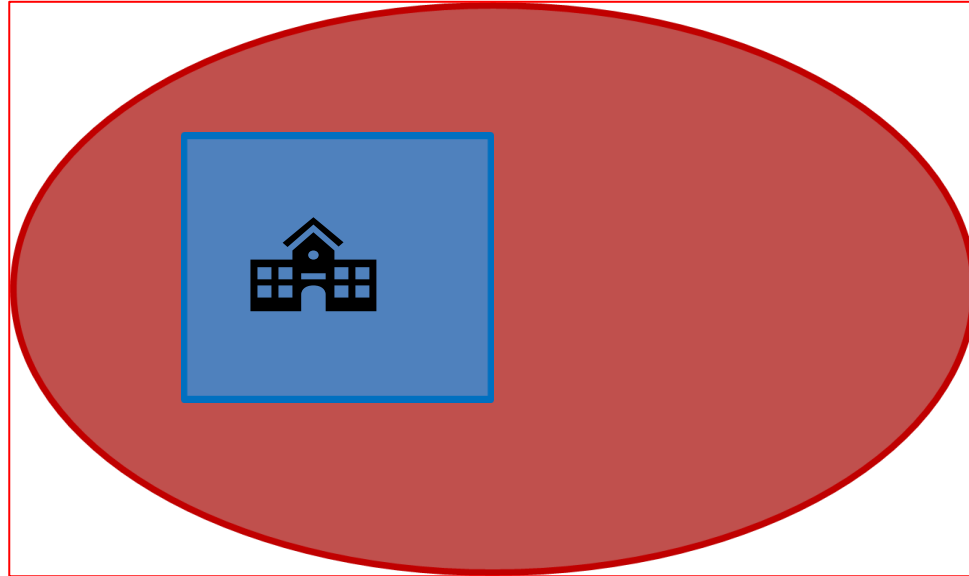
# School Governance 101

Beth St. James, Legislative Counsel

August 14, 2024

*State Aid for School Construction Working Group*

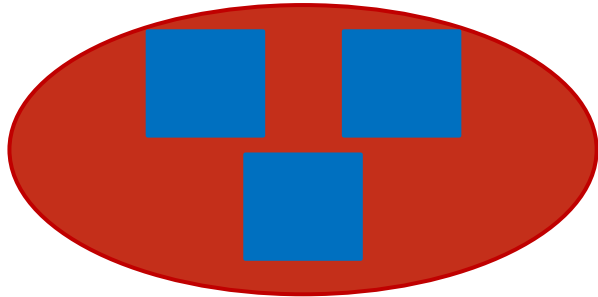
- **Supervisory Union**
- **School District**
- **School**



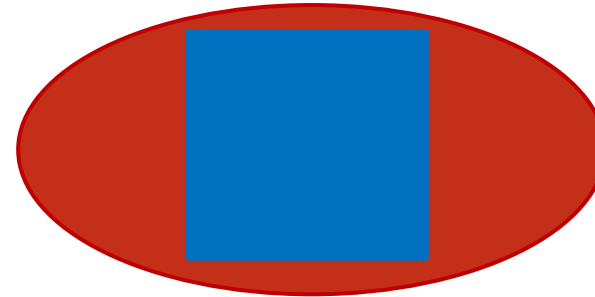
# **Supervisory Unions:** administrative, planning, and educational service units created by the State Board

Supervisory Unions can be made up of multiple school districts or just one school district:

Supervisory Union (multi school districts)



Supervisory District (one school district)



## 16 V.S.A. 261a. Duties of supervisory union board:

- Establish SU-wide curriculum
- Receipt and disbursement of federal and State funds distributed by AOE
- Professional development
- Special education services
- Provision of several services, including procurement, management of construction projects, negotiate teacher contracts, transportation, etc.

# School Districts: town school districts, union school districts, interstate school districts, city school districts, unified union school districts, and incorporated school districts, each of which is governed by a publicly elected board

- ▶ There are several different types of **school districts**, dependent on:
  - the number of towns the **school district** serves
    - One town?
    - Multiple towns? (**union school districts**)
  - the grades for which the **school district** is organized to provide education for
    - All grades prek-12?
      - If a **school district** serves multiple towns = **unified union school district**
    - Some subset of all grades?
      - If a **school district** serves multiple towns = **union elementary school district** or **union high school district**, depending on the grades
  - how the **school district** provides education for those grades
    - Does it operate its own schools for all grades it is organized to provide education for?

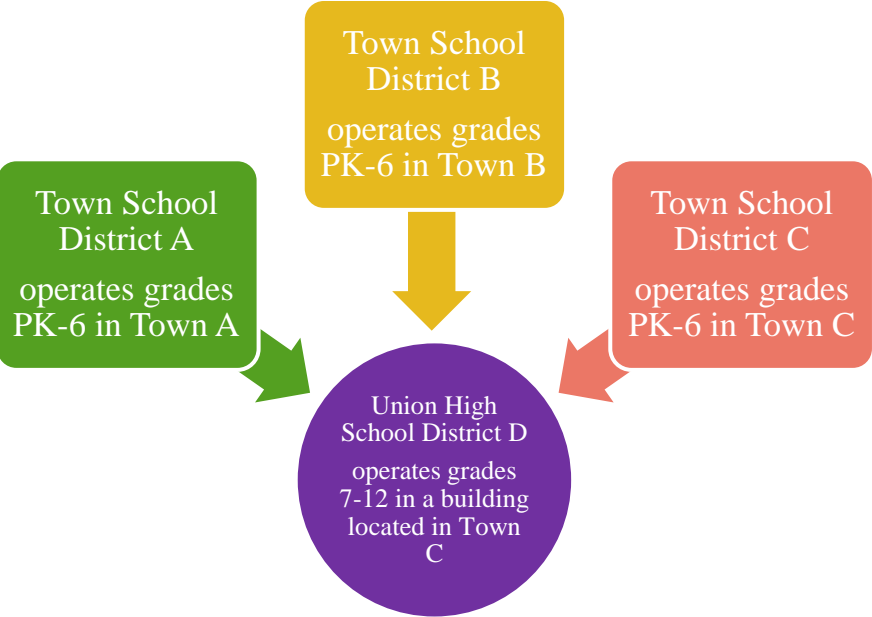
# School Districts

## 16 V.S.A. 563. Powers of school boards

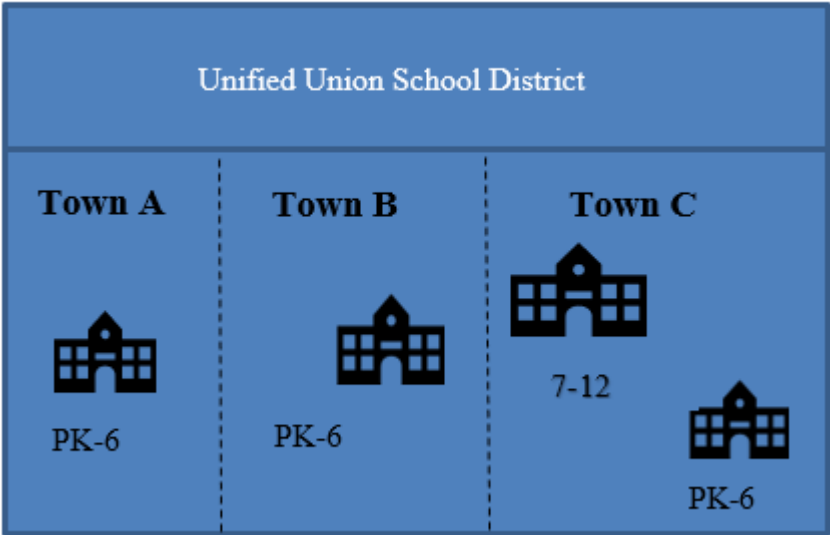
- ▶ Educational policies of the school district
- ▶ May take any action that is required for the sound administration of the school district
- ▶ Shall have the possession, care, control, and management of the property of the district
- ▶ Shall keep school buildings and grounds in good repair
- ▶ Discretion to administer early educational programs
- ▶ May relocate or discontinue use of a schoolhouse or facility, subject to applicable law
- ▶ Budget
- ▶ May execute contracts
- ▶ Shall exercise the general powers given to a legislative branch of a municipality

# Union School Districts

## Union Elementary and High School District



## Unified Union School District



# Example 1: Franklin Northeast **Supervisory Union**

## Franklin NE Supervisory Union

Northern Mountain Valley UUSD  
(Bakersfield, Berkshire,  
Montgomery, Sheldon)



Bakersfield Elem/Mid  
Pk-8



Berkshire Elem  
Pk-8



Montgomery Elem  
Pk-8



Sheldon Elem  
Pk-8

Tuition: grades 9-12

Enosburg-Richford UUSD



Enosburg Elem  
Pk-5



Richford Elem  
Pk-5



Enosburg Falls  
Mid & HS  
6-12

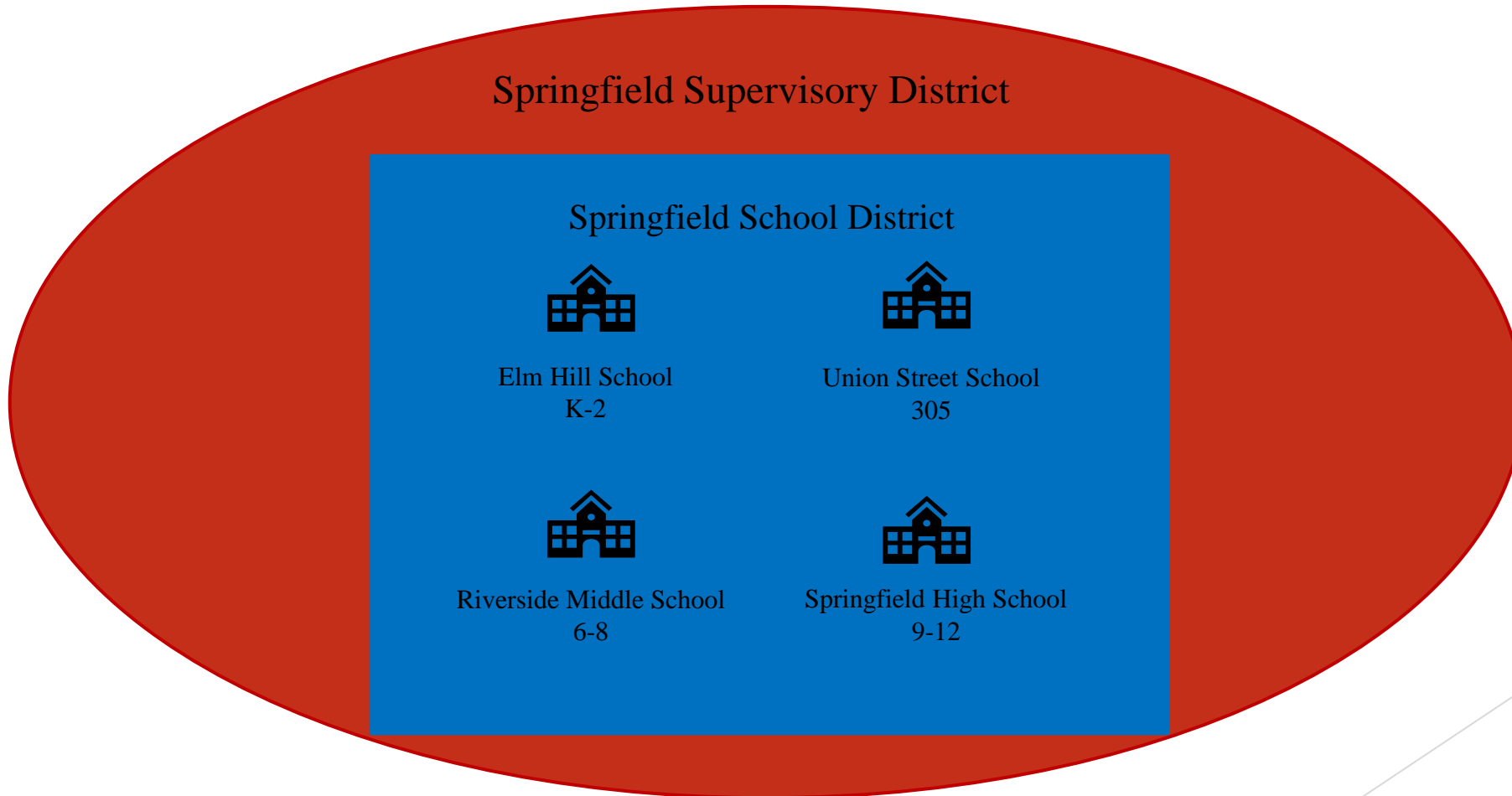


Richford Jr-Sr  
HS  
6-12



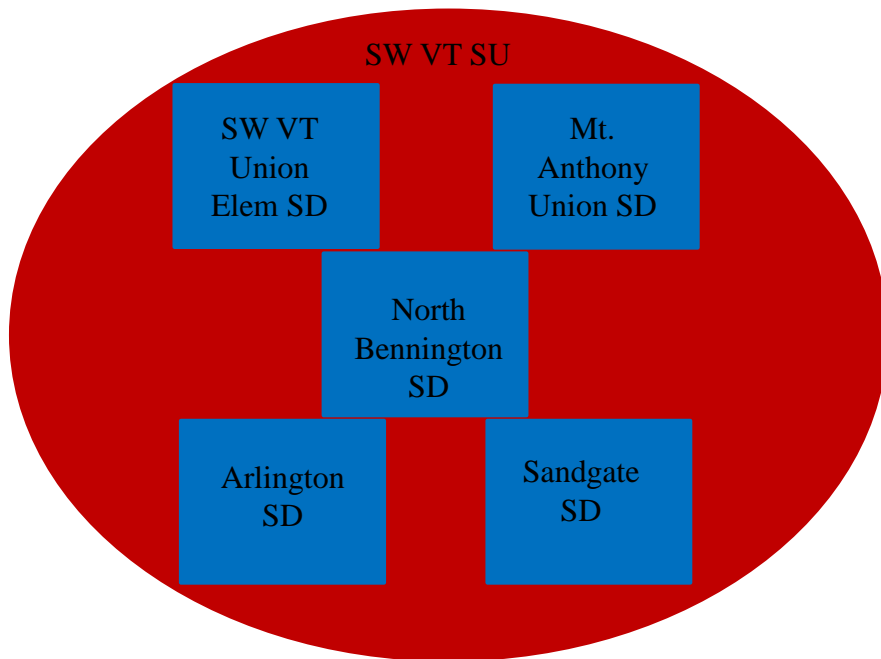
Cold Hollow Career Center

# Example 2: Springfield **Supervisory District**





# Example 3: Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union



- ▶ SW VT Union Elementary School District:
  - ▶ Pownal, Shaftsbury, Woodford
    - ▶ Pk-6: Shaftsbury Elementary School; Woodford Hollow Elementary School; Pownal Elementary School
  - ▶ Bennington
    - ▶ Pk-5: Bennington Elementary School, Molly Stark Elementary School, Monument Elementary School
- ▶ Mt. Anthony Union School District:
  - ▶ Pownal, Woodford, Shaftsbury, North Bennington, Bennington
    - ▶ Mt. Anthony Union Middle School (6-8)
    - ▶ Mt. Anthony Union High School (9-12 all towns)
- ▶ North Bennington School District
  - ▶ Non operational: Tuition Pk-6
- ▶ Arlington School District
  - ▶ Fisher Elementary School (Pk-5)
  - ▶ Arlington Memorial High School (6-12)
- ▶ Sandgate School District
  - ▶ Non operational: Tuition Pk-12

# Contracts Between **Districts** to Operate Schools Jointly

16 V.S.A. chapter 9, subchapter 6

## ► § 571. CONTRACTS TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE JOINT SCHOOLS

By a majority vote of the voters present and voting at a meeting, duly warned for that purpose, a town school district or incorporated school district may authorize its school directors to enter into a contract or contracts with other towns and parties for the financing, construction, maintenance, and operation of a competent school or schools to provide means and facilities for the convenient and adequate development, education, and training of the youths of such town.

# Contracts Between **Districts** to Operate Schools Jointly

## 16 V.S.A. chapter 9, subchapter 6

### ► § 572. JOINT BOARDS FOR JOINT, CONTRACT, OR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

(a) The control of joint, contract, or consolidated schools, set up by two or more school districts, shall be vested in a joint school board from the forming school districts, and the members of the joint school board shall be chosen in the manner provided for in, and for the purpose of, this section. A joint, contract, or consolidated school board shall be referred to as a joint board.

(b) The joint board shall have full authority to act on all matters pertaining to the finance, location, construction, maintenance, and operation of schools set up as joint, contract, or consolidated schools, including the selection and hiring of teachers.

(c) The joint board shall consist of members chosen annually from the duly elected school boards of the school districts, each school district board electing a member or members to the joint board from among its own members.

(d) Unless the school districts that are parties to the contract have agreed upon a different method of allocating board members that is consistent with law, the allocation of the board members shall be as provided in this subsection. The school district with the largest number of pupils attending the joint, contract, or consolidated school shall have three members on the joint board. Each other school district shall have at least one member on the joint board, and its total membership shall be determined by dividing the number of pupils from the school district with the largest enrollment by three, rounding off the quotient to the nearest whole number, which shall be called the “factor” and by then dividing the pupil enrollment of each of the other school districts by the “factor,” rounding off this quotient to the nearest whole number, this number being the number of school directors on the joint board from each of the other school districts. Pupil enrollment for the purpose of determining the number of members on the joint board to which each school district is entitled shall be taken from the school registers on January 1 of the calendar year in which the school year starts. The joint board shall annually select from among its members a chair and a clerk and shall also select a treasurer from among the treasurers of the contracting districts.