

**HANDOUT for House Committee on Education February 13, 2026 Submitted by Rural School Community Alliance**

| Products & Services Provided   | Cost Savings and Benefits for BOCES Members   |
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| <p>Professional Development Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>De-escalation training</i></li> <li>• <i>Hazing/Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention training</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Education laws and regulations</i></li> <li>• <i>Supporting students with mental health challenges</i></li> <li>• <i>Classroom based Tier One interventions for students with mental health needs</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>Supervisory unions and districts saved an average of 66 percent on professional development costs</b> by using their regional service agency compared to individually hosting these events. Professional development was hosted locally or virtually saving staff time and transportation costs.</p>  |
| <p>Evaluation Service Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Comprehensive Autism Evaluations</i></li> <li>• <i>Psycho-educational evaluations</i></li> <li>• <i>Speech and Language Evaluations</i></li> </ul>  | <p>By using their regional educational service agency, member supervisory unions' and districts' <b>savings ranged from 20 - 50 percent on evaluation services yielding an average savings of 38 percent.</b> No waiting lists were necessary; therefore, all evaluations were provided within special education compliance timelines. Providers are regionally localized thereby reducing travel time and associated costs compared to other providers.</p>  |
| <p>Staffing Services Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Speech and Language Services</i></li> <li>• <i>Board Certified Behavior Analyst</i></li> </ul>   | <p>In person services provided to student(s) in out of district settings ensuring free and appropriate education access for students. The regional service agency is able to hire and fulfill multiple part time FTE positions shared regionally across Supervisory Unions/Districts ensuring service needs are met and <b>cost savings are reduced by up to 50 percent or more per FTE.</b></p>  |
| <p>Supervisory union/District Consultation Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Program Review</i></li> <li>• <i>Program Restructuring</i></li> </ul>  | <p>Accessing their regional educational service agency for supervisory union/district <b>consultation saved members up to 62 percent in consultation fees.</b> Services focused on increasing supervisory unions and districts' capacity to provide in-house programming for complex learners, with the goal of reducing reliance on outside placement services.</p>  |
| <p>Special Education Programming Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Elementary K - 6 Social Emotional Programming</i></li> </ul>   | <p>By partnering with their regional educational service agency, member supervisory union/districts are committing to local programming within their school settings thereby providing students access to a range of programming that includes the least restrictive setting. Currently, the southeastern area of Vermont has a severe lack of high-quality therapeutic programming. The model of using the regional service agency allows for higher quality, closer to home programming for students, with a continuum of most to least restrictive settings to support students' growth and fulfilling the ultimate goal of returning to their home supervisory union/district. Anticipated <b>average supervisory union/district savings for service fees and transportation are expected to be up to 85 percent</b> of their current out of supervisory union/district expenses.</p> |

## **Examples of cost savings already realized through the Southeast Vermont BOCES\***

*\* The members of this new CESA (BOCES) are Mountain Views Supervisory Union, Springfield School District, Windham Northeast Supervisory Union, Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Two Rivers Supervisory Union, Windham Central Supervisory Union, and Windham Southeast Supervisory Union. According to AOE data, there are about 8000 students who will be served by this CESA.*

*This cost analysis compared services provided by the current regional education service provider (Vermont Learning Collaborative) to those of alternate providers used by our member Supervisory Unions and Districts. Data was provided by business office personnel regarding their expenses for comparative services. This analysis focuses on five current main areas of shared services: professional development, evaluation services, staffing services, consultation and programming.*