

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 \* \* \* Goals \* \* \*

2 Sec. 1. GOALS

3 By enacting this legislation, the General Assembly intends to modernize

4 Vermont’s school district governance structure in a manner that:

5 (1) enables higher quality educational delivery;

6 (2) improves governance efficiency;

7 (3) moderates the growth rate of education spending;

8 (4) preserves local voice;

9 (5) is sensitive and responsive to the diverse needs of the State; and

10 (6) uses a structured voluntary process first, with a limited and targeted  
11 involuntary mechanism only if necessary to meet statewide goals.

12 \* \* \* Supervisory Unions \* \* \*

13 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 301 is redesignated to read:

14 § ~~301~~ 265. APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES

15 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

16 Subchapter 2. ~~Supervisory Union Expenses~~ Division of State into Supervisory  
17 Unions

18 **§ 280. SUPERVISORY UNIONS**

19 The State is divided into the supervisory unions of Southwest Area

20 Supervisory Union, Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union, Windham South

21 Supervisory Union, Windham North Supervisory Union, Upper Valley Area

22 Supervisory Union, Rutland Area Supervisory Union, Randolph Area

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 Supervisory Union, Central Area Supervisory Union, Caledonia Area  
2 Supervisory Union, Lamoille Area Supervisory Union, Essex-Orleans Area  
3 Supervisory Union, Northwest Area Supervisory Union, Champlain Valley  
4 Supervisory District, Essex Westford Supervisory District, Burlington  
5 Supervisory District, Mount Mansfield Unified Union Supervisory District,  
6 South Burlington Supervisory District, Maple Run Unified Supervisory  
7 District, Colchester Supervisory District, Barre Unified Union Supervisory  
8 District, Franklin West Supervisory Union, Harwood Unified Union  
9 Supervisory District, Addison Central Supervisory District, Milton Town  
10 Supervisory District, Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory District,  
11 Mount Abraham Unified Supervisory District, Montpelier Roxbury  
12 Supervisory District, Addison Northwest Supervisory District, Winooski  
13 Supervisory District, Caledonia Supervisory District, and Lincoln Supervisory  
14 District.

15 **§ 281. SUPERVISORY UNION ONE: SOUTHWEST AREA**

16 The Southwest Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
17 school districts and their member municipalities:

18 (1) School district A, which is composed of XXX...

19 Arlington, Bennington, Glastenbury, Pownal, Sandgate, Searsburg,  
20 Shaftsbury, and Woodford

21 **§ 282. SUPERVISORY UNION TWO: BENNINGTON-RUTLAND**

22 **SUPERVISORY UNION**

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1        The Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union is formed of the following  
2        member school districts and their member municipalities:

3            (1) School district A, which is composed of XXX...

4            Danby, Dorset, Dover, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester,  
5        Middletown Springs, Mount Tabor, Pawlet, Peru, Rupert, Somerset, Stratton,  
6        Sunderland, Wardsboro, Wells, Weston, and Winhall.

7        **§ 283. SUPERVISORY UNION THREE: WINDHAM SOUTH**

8        The Windham South Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
9        school districts and their member municipalities:

10           (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

11           Brattleboro, Brookline, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica,  
12        Marlboro, Newfane, Putney, Readsboro, Stamford, Townshend, Vernon,  
13        Whitingham, Wilmington

14        **§ 284. SUPERVISORY UNION FOUR: WINDHAM NORTH**

15        The Windham North Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
16        school districts and their member municipalities:

17           (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

18           Andover, Athens, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Ludlow,  
19        Mount Holly, Rockingham, Springfield, Westminster, Windham

20        **§ 285. SUPERVISORY UNION FIVE: UPPER VALLEY AREA**

21        The Upper Valley Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following  
22        member school districts and their member municipalities:

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...  
2           Barnard, Bridgewater, Hartford, Hartland, Killington, Pittsfield,  
3           Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, Weathersfield, West Windsor, Windsor,  
4           Woodstock

5           **§ 286. SUPERVISORY UNION SIX: RUTLAND AREA**

6           The Rutland Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
7           school districts and their member municipalities:

8           (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...  
9           Benson, Brandon, Castleton, Chittenden, Clarendon, Fair Haven,  
10          Goshen, Hubbardton, Ira, Leicester, Mendon, Orwell, Pittsford, Poultney,  
11          Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth,  
12          Wallingford, West Haven, West Rutland, Whiting

13          **§ 287. SUPERVISORY UNION SEVEN: RANDOLPH AREA**

14          The Randolph Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
15          school districts and their member municipalities:

16          (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...  
17          Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Chelsea, Granville, Hancock, Randolph,  
18          Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge

19          **§ 288. SUPERVISORY UNION EIGHT: CENTRAL AREA**

20          The Central Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
21          school districts and their member municipalities:

22          (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           Bradford, Corinth, Groton, Newbury, Northfield, Orange, Ryegate,  
2           Topsham, Washington, Williamstown

3           **§ 289. SUPERVISORY UNION NINE: CALEDONIA AREA**

4           The Caledonia Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
5           school districts and their member municipalities:

6           (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

7           Barnet, Burke, Concord, Danville, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Newark,  
8           Peacham, Saint Johnsbury, Sheffield, Sutton, Waldon, Waterford, Wheelock

9           **§ 210. SUPERVISORY UNION 10: LAMOILLE AREA**

10          The Lamoille Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
11          school districts and their member municipalities:

12          (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

13          Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Greensboro,  
14          Hardwick, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stannard, Stowe, Waterville,  
15          Wolcott, Woodbury

16          **§ 291. SUPERVISORY UNION 11: ESSEX-ORLEANS AREA**

17          The Essex-Orleans Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following  
18          member school districts and their member municipalities:

19          (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

20          Albany, Averill, Avery's Gore, Barton, Bloomfield, Brighton,  
21          Brownington, Brunswick, Canaan, Charleston, Coventry, Derby, East Haven,  
22          Ferdinand, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Irasburg, Jay, Kirby,

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Changes from last draft

1 Lemington, Lewis, Lowell, Maidstone, Morgan, Newport City, Newport  
2 Town, Norton, Troy, Victory, Warner’s Grant, Warren’s Gore, Westfield,  
3 Westmore

4 **§ 292. SUPERVISORY UNION 12: NORTHWEST AREA**

5 The Northwest Area Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
6 school districts and their member municipalities:

7 (1) School District A, which is composed of XXX...

8 Alburgh, Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Franklin, Grand Isle,  
9 Highgate, Isle La Motte, Montgomery, North Hero, Richford, Sheldon, South  
10 Hero, Swanton

11 **§ 293. SUPERVISORY UNION 13: CHAMPLAIN VALLEY**

12 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

13 The Champlain Valley Supervisory District is formed of the Champlain  
14 Valley School District, which is composed of the member municipalities of  
15 Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, and Williston.

16 **§ 294. SUPERVISORY UNION 14: ESSEX WESTFORD SUPERVISORY**

17 **DISTRICT**

18 The Essex Westford Supervisory District is formed of the Essex Westford  
19 Educational Community Unified Union School District, which is composed of  
20 the member municipalities of Essex, Essex Junction, and Westford.

21 **§ 295. SUPERVISORY UNION 15: BURLINGTON SUPERVISORY**

22 **DISTRICT**

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1        The Burlington Supervisory District is formed of the Burlington School  
2        District, which is composed of Burlington.

3        **§ 296. SUPERVISORY UNION 16: MOUNT MANSFIELD UNIFIED**

4        **UNION SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

5        The Mount Mansfield Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of the  
6        Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District, which is composed of the  
7        member municipalities of Bolton, Buel’s Gore, Huntington, Jericho,  
8        Richmond, and Underhill.

9        **§ 297. SUPERVISORY UNION 17: SOUTH BURLINGTON**

10       **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

11       The South Burlington Supervisory District is formed of the South  
12       Burlington School District, which is composed of South Burlington.

13       **§ 298. SUPERVISORY UNION 18: MAPLE RUN UNIFIED**

14       **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

15       The Maple Run Unified Supervisory District is formed of the Maple run  
16       Unified School District, which is composed of Fairfield, St. Albans City, and  
17       St. Albans Town.

18       **§ 299. SUPERVISORY UNION 19: COLCESTER SUPERVISORY**

19       **DISTRICT**

20       The Colchester Supervisory District is formed of the Colchester School  
21       District, which is composed of Colchester.

22       **§ 300. SUPERVISORY UNION 20: BARRE UNIFIED UNION**

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

2 The Barre Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of the Barre  
3 Unified Union School District, which is composed of Barre City and Barre  
4 Town.

5 **§ 301. SUPERVISORY UNION 21: FRANKLIN WEST SUPERVISORY**

6 **UNION**

7 The Franklin West Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
8 school districts and their member municipalities:

- 9 (1) Fairfax School District, which is composed of Fairfax;  
10 (2) Fletcher School District, which is composed of Fletcher; and  
11 (3) Georgia School District, which his composed of Georgia.

12 **§ 302. SUPERVISORY UNION 22: HARWOOD UNIFIED UNION**

13 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

14 The Harwood Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of the Harwood  
15 Unified Union School District, which is composed of Duxbury, Fayston,  
16 Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, and Waterbury.

17 **§ 303. SUPERVISORY UNION 23: ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY**

18 **DISTRICT**

19 The Addison Central Supervisory District is formed of the Addison Central  
20 School District, which is composed of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury,  
21 Ripton, Salisbury, Shorham, and Weybridge.

22 **§ 304. SUPERVISORY UNION 24: MILTON TOWN SUPERVISORY**

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 **DISTRICT**

2 The Milton Supervisory District is formed of the Milton Town School  
3 District, which is composed of Milton.

4 **§ 305. SUPERVISORY UNION 25: WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED**

5 **UNION SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

6 The Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of  
7 the Washington Central Unified Union School District, which is composed of  
8 Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester.

9 **§ 306. SUPERVISORY UNION 26: MOUNT ABRAHAM UNIFIED**

10 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

11 The Mount Abraham Unified Supervisory District is formed of the Mount  
12 Abraham Unified School District, which is composed of Bristol, Monkton,  
13 New Haven, and Starksboro.

14 **§ 307. SUPERVISORY UNION 27: MONTPELIER ROXBURY**

15 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

16 The Montpelier Roxbury Supervisory District is formed of the Montpelier  
17 Roxbury School District, which is composed of Montpelier and Roxbury.

18 **§ 308. SUPERVISORY UNION 28: ADDISON NORTHWEST**

19 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

20 The Addison Northwest Supervisory District is formed of the Addison  
21 Northwest School District, which is composed of Addison, Ferrisburgh,  
22 Panton, Vergennes, and Waltham.

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 **§ 309. SUPERVISORY UNION 29: WINOOSKI SUPERVISORY**

2 **DISTRICT**

3 The Winooski Supervisory District is formed of the Winooski School  
4 District, which is composed of Winooski.

5 **§ 310. SUPERVISORY UNION 30: CALEDONIA SUPERVISORY UNION**

6 The Caledonia Supervisory Union is formed of the following member  
7 school districts and their member municipalities:

8 (1) Cabot School District, which is composed of Cabot; and

9 (2) Twinfield Unified Union School District, which is composed of  
10 Marshfield and Plainfield.

11 **§ 311. SUPERVISORY UNION 31. LINCOLN SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

12 The Lincoln Supervisory District is formed of the Lincoln School District,  
13 which is composed of Lincoln.

14 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 261 is amended to read:

15 § 261. ORGANIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF SUPERVISORY

16 UNIONS

17 ~~(a) The State Board shall review on its own initiative or when requested as~~  
18 ~~per subsection (b) of this section and may regroup the supervisory unions of~~  
19 ~~the State or create new supervisory unions in such manner as to afford~~  
20 ~~increased efficiency or greater convenience and economy and to facilitate~~  
21 ~~prekindergarten through grade 12 curriculum planning and coordination as~~  
22 ~~changed conditions may seem to require. The board of a member school~~

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 district may propose to the General Assembly to adopt, repeal, or amend  
2 boundaries of the supervisory union it belongs to in accordance with the  
3 following procedure:

4 (1) A proposal to adopt, repeal, or amend a supervisory union boundary  
5 may be made by a member school district board or by petition of five percent  
6 of the total voters of a member school district.

7 (2) An official copy of the supervisory union boundary adjustment  
8 proposal shall be filed as a public record with the clerk of the member school  
9 district pursuing a boundary adjustment at least 10 days before the first public  
10 hearing regarding the boundary adjustment proposal. The school district clerk  
11 shall certify the date on which the clerk received the official copy and the date  
12 copies shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

13 (3)(A) The member school district board shall hold at least two public  
14 hearings prior to the vote on the boundary adjustment proposal.

15 (B) The first public hearing shall be held in accordance with  
16 subdivision (a)(2) of this section and at least 30 days before the vote.

17 (4)(A) If the boundary adjustment proposal is made by a member school  
18 district board, the board may revise the proposal as a result of suggestions and  
19 recommendations made at a public hearing, but in no event shall such revisions  
20 be made less than 20 days before the date of the meeting to vote on the  
21 boundary adjustment proposal.

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (B) If revisions are made, the school board shall post a notice of these  
2           revisions in the same places as the warning for the meeting not less than 20  
3           days before the date of the meeting and shall attach such revisions to the  
4           official copy of the request kept on file for public inspection in the office of the  
5           clerk of the member school district.

6           (5)(A) If the boundary adjustment proposal is made by petition, the  
7           second public hearing shall be held not later than 10 days after the first public  
8           hearing. The school board shall not have the authority to revise a boundary  
9           adjustment proposal made by petition.

10           (B) After the warning and hearing requirements of this section are  
11           satisfied, the boundary adjustment proposal shall be submitted to the voters of  
12           the member school district proposing the boundary adjustment at the next  
13           annual meeting, primary election, or general election in the form in which it  
14           was filed, except that the school board may make technical corrections.

15           (6)(A) Notice of each public hearing and of the annual or special  
16           meeting shall be given in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2641.

17           (B)(i) Each notice shall specify the supervisory union boundaries to  
18           be adjusted, repealed, or amended, setting out those boundaries in the amended  
19           form, with deleted matter struck through and new matter underlined.

20           (ii) If the school board determines that the boundary adjustment  
21           proposal is too long or unwieldy to set out in amended form, the notice shall  
22           include a concise summary of the boundary adjustment proposal and shall state

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 that an official copy of the boundary adjustment proposal is on file for public  
2 inspection in the office of the clerk of the school district and that copies thereof  
3 shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

4 (7)(A) Voting on a boundary adjustment proposal shall be by Australian  
5 ballot.

6 (B)(i) The ballot shall show each boundary adjustment to be adopted,  
7 repealed, or amended in the amended form, with deleted matter struck through  
8 and new matter underlined, and shall permit the voter to vote on each separate  
9 proposal contained within the boundary adjustment request.

10 (ii) If the school board determines that the boundary adjustment  
11 proposal is too long or unwieldy to be shown in the amended form, voters shall  
12 be permitted to vote upon each separate proposal in its entirety in the form of a  
13 yes or no proposition.

14 (C) An official copy of the boundary adjustment proposal shall be  
15 posted conspicuously in each ballot booth for inspection by the voters during  
16 the balloting.

17 ~~(b)(1) Any school district that has so voted at its annual school district~~  
18 ~~meeting, if said meeting has been properly warned regarding such a vote, may~~  
19 ~~request that the State Board adjust the existing boundaries of the supervisory~~  
20 ~~union of which it is a member district. The clerk of the member school district~~  
21 ~~shall announce and post the results of the vote immediately after the vote is~~  
22 ~~counted.~~

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (2) ~~Any group of school districts that have so voted at their respective~~  
2           ~~annual school district meeting, regardless of whether the districts are members~~  
3           ~~of the same supervisory union, may request that the State Board adjust existing~~  
4           ~~supervisory union boundaries and move one or more nonrequesting districts to~~  
5           ~~a different supervisory union if such adjustment would assist the requesting~~  
6           ~~districts to realign their governance structures into a unified union school~~  
7           ~~district pursuant to chapter 11 of this title. The clerk of the school district,~~  
8           ~~within 10 days after the day of the meeting, shall certify to the Secretary of~~  
9           ~~State each separate boundary adjustment contained within the boundary~~  
10          ~~adjustment proposal, showing the facts as to its origin and the procedure~~  
11          ~~followed, which shall include:~~

12                   (A)(i) if the boundary adjustment proposal was made by the school  
13                   board, the minutes recorded by the school board that detail the origins and  
14                   intent of each separate boundary adjustment proposal; and

15                   (ii) if the boundary adjustment proposal was made by voter  
16                   petition, the body of the petition and evidence of the required number of  
17                   petition signatures;

18                   (B) a copy of the official certified copy of the boundary adjustment  
19                   proposal filed with the clerk of the school district pursuant to subdivision  
20                   (a)(2) of this section;

21                   (C) copies of the warnings and published notices for each of the  
22                   public hearings held pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section;

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (D) minutes recorded by the school board that detail each of the  
2 public hearings held pursuant to subdivision (a)(3) of this section;

3           (E) copies of warnings and published notices for the meeting to vote  
4 on the boundary adjustment proposal;

5           (F) a copy of the ballot and the results of the vote or votes on the  
6 boundary adjustment proposal; and

7           (E) the results of the advisory supervisory union board votes made  
8 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

9           ~~(3) The State Board shall act on a request made pursuant to this~~  
10 ~~subsection within 75 days of receipt of the request and may regroup the school~~  
11 ~~districts in the area so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all of these public~~  
12 ~~schools. If the voters do not approve the boundary adjustment proposal, no~~  
13 ~~further action shall be taken unless and until a new boundary adjustment~~  
14 ~~proposal is initiated pursuant to this section.~~

15           ~~(c) The State Board may designate any school district, including a unified~~  
16 ~~union district, as a supervisory district if it will provide for the education of all~~  
17 ~~resident students in prekindergarten through grade 12 and is large enough to~~  
18 ~~support the planning and administrative functions of a supervisory union. If~~  
19 ~~the voters of the member school district vote to approve the boundary~~  
20 ~~adjustment proposal, the boards of the supervisory unions affected by the~~  
21 ~~boundary adjustment proposal shall hold an advisory vote to approve the~~  
22 ~~boundary adjustment proposal within 45 days after the results of the school~~

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 district vote. The clerk of the school district requesting the boundary  
2 adjustment shall submit the results of the advisory supervisory union board  
3 votes to the Secretary of State with the information required to be submitted  
4 pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

5 ~~(d) Upon application by a supervisory union board, the State Board may~~  
6 ~~waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to the~~  
7 ~~supervisory union board structure, board composition, or board meetings, or~~  
8 ~~the staffing pattern of the supervisory union, if it can be demonstrated that such~~  
9 ~~a waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory~~  
10 ~~union; will not result in any disproportionate representation; and is otherwise~~  
11 ~~in the public interest. If the voters of the member school district vote to~~  
12 approve the boundary adjustment proposal, after confirming that the clerk of  
13 the member school district has certified each of the documents listed in  
14 subdivision (b)(2) of this section, the Secretary of State shall file the certificate  
15 and deliver copies of it to the Agency of Education, the State Board of  
16 Education, the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, and the chairs  
17 of the committees concerned with supervisory union boundaries of both houses  
18 of the General Assembly.

19 (e) The boundary adjustment proposal shall become effective upon  
20 affirmative enactment of the proposal, either as proposed or as amended by the  
21 General Assembly.

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1       Sec. 5. TRANSITION TO NEW SUPERVISORY UNIONS; REPORT

2           (a) Transition board formation. Within 30 days following the passage of  
3       this act, the Secretary of Education shall separately call a meeting of the school  
4       boards of the member school districts within each supervisory union. The  
5       number of supervisory union board members shall be determined and directors  
6       shall be elected according to 16 V.S.A. § 266. Within 30 days thereafter, the  
7       Secretary shall call a meeting and the board shall elect a chair and other  
8       necessary officers to serve as a transition board until the first regular annual  
9       election of officers. The operational date of the new supervisory unions shall  
10       be July 1, 2027.

11           (b) Roles and authority during transitional period. During the transition  
12       period:

13           (1) The supervisory unions in existence on July 1, 2026, shall continue  
14       to provide administrative, planning, and educational services for their member  
15       school districts until the new supervisory unions created pursuant to this act are  
16       operational.

17           (2) The transition board shall develop bylaws for the new supervisory  
18       union that shall address how the expenses of the supervisory union, including  
19       those associated with the central office and those associated with the provision  
20       of special education services, shall be assessed to member school districts.

21           (3) The transition board shall take all actions necessary to ensure the  
22       supervisory union is able to fully comply with and execute each duty assigned

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 to a supervisory union pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 261a not later than the  
2 operational date of the new supervisory union.

3 (4) The transition board shall comply with 16 V.S.A. chapter 53,  
4 subchapter 3 for the transition of employees.

5 (c) Report. On or before December 1, 2026, the State Board of Education  
6 shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on  
7 Education with recommendations for:

8 (1) adjustments to the supervisory union boundaries of the Champlain  
9 Valley Supervisory District, Essex Westford Supervisory District, Burlington  
10 Supervisory District, Mount Mansfield Unified Union Supervisory District,  
11 South Burlington Supervisory District, Maple Run Unified Supervisory  
12 District, Colchester Supervisory District, Barre Unified Union Supervisory  
13 District, Franklin West Supervisory Union, Harwood Unified Union  
14 Supervisory District, Addison Central Supervisory District, Milton Town  
15 Supervisory District, Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory District,  
16 Mount Abraham Unified Supervisory District, Montpelier Roxbury  
17 Supervisory District, Addison Northwest Supervisory District, Winooski  
18 Supervisory District, Caledonia Supervisory District, and Lincoln Supervisory  
19 District, which shall result in supervisory unions with an aggregate average  
20 daily membership of all member school districts within a supervisory union of  
21 not less than 2,500 students and may include supervisory districts if the

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 average daily membership of a supervisory district is also not less than 2,500  
2 students; and

3 (2) school district mergers within the new supervisory union boundary  
4 recommendations submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) of this section,  
5 which shall result in a recommendation of a total of 10 school districts, as  
6 practical, within the boundaries of the supervisory unions listed in subdivision  
7 (1).

8 \* \* \* School District Consolidation \* \* \*

9 Sec. 6. REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

10 (a) Reduction in number of school districts; goal. On or before July 1,  
11 2029, the State shall provide educational opportunities through approximately  
12 50 percent fewer school districts than exist on July 1, 2026, through the actions  
13 described in this section.

14 (b) Supervisory union member district mergers. On or before September 1,  
15 2026, the member school district boards of the following supervisory unions  
16 shall establish study committees to study the advisability of forming a new or  
17 expanded union school district in any combination that results in the reduction  
18 in the number of individual member school districts to a total of 48 school  
19 districts, as practical, across all supervisory unions listed in subdivisions (1)  
20 through (12) of this subsection, pursuant to the processes and requirements of  
21 16 V.S.A. chapter 11:

22 (1) Southwest Area Supervisory Union;

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

- 1           (2) Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union;
- 2           (3) Windham South Supervisory Union;
- 3           (4) Windham North Supervisory Union;
- 4           (5) Upper Valley Area Supervisory Union;
- 5           (6) Rutland Area Supervisory Union;
- 6           (7) Randolph Area Supervisory Union;
- 7           (8) Central Area Supervisory Union;
- 8           (9) Caledonia Area Supervisory Union;
- 9           (10) Lamoille Area Supervisory Union;
- 10          (11) Essex-Orleans Area Supervisory Union; and
- 11          (12) Northwest Area Supervisory Union.

12          Sec. 7. OPERATION MODEL PROTECTION

13           (a) Intent. Nothing in this act shall be construed to restrict or repeal, or to  
14           authorize, encourage, or contemplate the restriction or repeal of, the ability of a  
15           school district that provides for the education of all resident students in one or  
16           more grades:

17           (1) by paying tuition on the students' behalf, to continue to provide  
18           education by paying tuition on behalf of all students in the grade or grades; or

19           (2) by operating a school offering the grade or grades, to continue to  
20           provide education by operating a school for all students in the grade or grades.

21           (b) School operation. All governance transitions contemplated pursuant to  
22           this act shall preserve the ability of a district that provides for the education of

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 all resident students in one or more grades by operating a school for all  
2 students in the grade or grades if it chooses to do so and shall not require the  
3 district to pay tuition for students if it ceases to exist as a discrete entity and  
4 realigns into a supervisory district or union school district.

5 (c) Tuition payment. All governance transitions contemplated pursuant to  
6 this act shall preserve the ability of a district that provides for the education of  
7 all resident students in one or more grades by paying tuition on the students’  
8 behalf, to continue to provide education by paying tuition on behalf of all  
9 students in the grade or grades if it chooses to do so and shall not require the  
10 district to limit the options available to students if it ceases to exist as a discrete  
11 entity and realigns into a supervisory district or union school district.

12 (d) Different operating structures. Nothing in this section shall prohibit  
13 school districts, regardless of their operating structure, from voluntarily  
14 merging pursuant to the processes and requirements of 16 V.S.A. chapter 11.

15 Sec. 8. EVALUATION BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

16 (a) When evaluating a proposal to create a union school district pursuant to  
17 16 V.S.A. chapter 11, including a proposal submitted pursuant to the  
18 provisions of Sec. 6 of this act, the State Board of Education shall:

19 (1) consider whether the proposal is designed to meet the goals set forth  
20 in Sec. 1 of this act and to reduce the number of school districts as set forth in  
21 Sec. 6(a) of this act; and

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (2) be mindful of any other district in the region that may become  
2           geographically isolated, including the potential isolation of a district with low  
3           fiscal capacity or with a high percentage of students from economically  
4           deprived backgrounds as identified in 16 V.S.A. § 4010(d).

5           (A) At the request of the State Board, the Secretary of Education  
6           shall work with the potentially isolated district and other districts in the region  
7           to move toward voluntary merger that does not result in such isolation.

8           (B) The State Board is authorized to deny approval to a proposal that  
9           would geographically isolate a district that would not be an appropriate  
10          member of another governance structure in the region; provided, however, that,  
11          notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 709(c)(2), the State Board shall approve other  
12          mergers formed pursuant to this act that do not geographically isolate a district.

13          (b) As used in this section, “geographically isolated” means a school  
14          district that is physically separated from other school districts in its supervisory  
15          union in a way that results in less opportunity for the district’s resident  
16          students.

17          Sec. 9. NONMERGING DISTRICT PROPOSALS

18          On or before November 30, 2027, the board of each school district listed in  
19          Sec. 6(b) that is not a member of a newly formed school district or that does  
20          not expect to become a member of a newly formed school district on or before  
21          July 1, 2029, solely on behalf of its own district or jointly with the boards of

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 other districts, shall submit a proposal to the Secretary of Education and the  
2 State Board of Education in which the district:

3 (1) proposes to retain its current governance structure, to work with  
4 other districts to form a different governance structure, or to enter into another  
5 model of joint activity;

6 (2) demonstrates, through reference to enrollment projections,  
7 student-to-staff ratios, the comprehensive data collected pursuant to 16 V.S.A.  
8 § 165, and otherwise, how the proposal submitted pursuant to this section  
9 supports the district’s or districts’ ability to meet or exceed each of the goals  
10 set forth in Sec. 1 of this act; and

11 (3) identifies detailed actions it proposes to take to continue to improve  
12 its performance in connection with each of the goals set forth in Sec. 1 of this  
13 act.

14 Sec. 10. FINAL STATE ACTION

15 (a) Agency of Education’s proposal. In order to modernize Vermont’s  
16 school district governance structures and meet the goals set forth in Sec. 1 of  
17 this act while reducing the number of school districts located within the  
18 supervisory unions listed in Sec. 6(b) to a total of 48 school districts, as  
19 practical, the Secretary shall:

20 (1) Review the governance structures of the school districts and  
21 supervisory unions listed in Sec. 6(b) as they will exist, or are anticipated to  
22 exist, on July 1, 2029. This review shall include consideration of any

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 proposals submitted by districts or groups of districts pursuant to Sec. 9 of this  
2 act and conversations with those and other districts.

3 (2) On or before June 1, 2028, the Secretary shall develop, publish on  
4 the Agency of Education’s website, and present to the State Board of  
5 Education a proposed plan that, to the extent necessary to promote the purpose  
6 stated at the beginning of this subsection, would merge districts into larger  
7 school districts in an effort to reduce the number of school districts located  
8 within the supervisory unions listed in Sec. 6(b) to a total of 48 school districts,  
9 as practical. The Agency shall only recommend merging districts with the  
10 same operating structures and districts within the same supervisory union. If it  
11 is not possible or practicable to develop a proposal that realigns some districts,  
12 where necessary, in a manner that adheres to the protections of Sec. 7 of this  
13 act (protection for tuition-paying and operating districts), then the proposal  
14 may also allow some school districts not to merge and instead to continue to  
15 exist and operate as they did as of July 1, 2026.

16 (3) Any mergers proposed by the Agency shall be based on the  
17 following considerations:

18 (A) school districts with small average daily membership counts shall  
19 be a priority for mergers;

20 (B) while school districts do not need to be contiguous in order to be  
21 merged, such mergers shall take into account the geography of each applicable  
22 school district and any other geographical areas affected by a proposed merger;

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (C) will the merged school district have adequate infrastructure  
2           capacity to consolidate schools should such a need develop;

3           (D) will the merger lead to improved opportunity for resident  
4           students;

5           (E) will the merger lead to the potential to gain staffing and  
6           administrative efficiencies; and

7           (F) will the merger result in net cost savings.

8           (b) State Board’s plan.

9           (1) School districts. On or before November 30, 2028, the State Board  
10          shall review and analyze the Secretary’s proposal under the provisions in  
11          subsection (a) of this section, may take testimony or ask for additional  
12          information from districts and supervisory unions, shall approve the proposal  
13          either in its original form or in an amended form that adheres to the provisions  
14          of subsection (a) of this section, and shall publish on the Agency’s website its  
15          order merging and realigning districts. The Board shall be prohibited from  
16          merging school districts whose operating structures differ as of July 1, 2026,  
17          and shall only order the merger of districts that are members of the same  
18          supervisory union.

19          (2) Supervisory unions after mergers. On or before November 30, 2028,  
20          the State Board shall submit a written report to the House and Senate  
21          Committees on Education with recommended supervisory union boundaries  
22          that reflect the new school districts created through voluntary merger pursuant

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 to Sec. 6 of this act and the Board’s order merging and realigning school  
2 districts pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

3 (c) Applicability. This section shall not apply to:

4 (1) an interstate school district;

5 (2) a school district not listed in Sec. 6(b);

6 (3) a regional career technical center school district formed under  
7 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 5A; or

8 (4) a school district that, between July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2028, began  
9 to operate as a unified union school district or obtained an affirmative vote of  
10 all necessary districts to voluntarily merge into a new union school district  
11 pursuant to Sec. 6 of this act; provided, however, that as part of the State  
12 Board’s plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the State  
13 Board may realign a newly formed unified union school district to include a  
14 geographically isolated district where necessary to achieve the goals of this act.

15 Sec. 11. QUALITY ASSURANCE; ACCOUNTABILITY; DATA

16 COLLECTION; REPORT

17 The Secretary of Education shall regularly review, evaluate, and keep the  
18 State Board of Education and the General Assembly apprised of the following:

19 (1) the discussions, studies, and activity among districts to move  
20 voluntarily toward creating new, larger school districts pursuant to Sec. 6 of  
21 this act, including how such activity will impact access to career technical  
22 education; and

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (2) the data and other information collected in connection with  
2           education quality standards pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165, and related on-site  
3           education quality reviews, including data and information regarding the equity  
4           of educational opportunities, academic outcomes, personalization of learning, a  
5           safe school climate, high-quality staffing, and financial efficiency.

6                           \* \* \* Exploration and Transition Grants \* \* \*

7           Sec. 12. EXPLORATION AND TRANSITION GRANTS; REPORT

8           Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025:

9           (1) Supervisory union transition facilitation grant. Within 15 days  
10           following the date each transitional board of each supervisory union created  
11           pursuant to this act holds a meeting to elect a chair and other necessary officers  
12           pursuant to Sec. 5(a), the Secretary of Education shall, from the Education  
13           Fund, pay each transitional board a supervisory union transition facilitation  
14           grant in the amount of \$250,000.00.

15           (2) Study committee grant. The Secretary of Education shall, from the  
16           Education Fund, reimburse up to \$10,000.00 of fees paid by two or more  
17           school districts for facilitation, legal, and other consulting services necessary  
18           for the initial exploration of the advisability of forming a new union school  
19           district for study committees that convene pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11 on  
20           or after July 1, 2026, pursuant to Sec. 6 of this act.

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (3) Merger support grant.

2           (A) After voter approval of a plan of merger that was developed by a  
3           study committee established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11 pursuant to  
4           Sec. 6 of this act on or after July 1, 2026, the Secretary of Education may pay  
5           the transitional board of the new union school district a transition facilitation  
6           grant from the Education Fund equal to the lesser of:

7                   (i) 10 percent of the base education amount established in  
8                   16 V.S.A. § 4001(13) multiplied by the greater of either the combined  
9                   enrollment or the average daily membership of the merging districts on  
10                  October 1 of the year in which the successful vote is taken; or

11                   (ii) \$300,000.00.

12           (B) A new school district formed pursuant to the recommendation of  
13           a study committee established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11 pursuant to  
14           Sec. 6 of this act on or after July 1, 2026, shall be eligible for a grant under this  
15           subdivision (3) if the newly formed union school district has:

16                   (i) an average daily membership of 3,000 or more students; or

17                   (ii) at least 15 separate towns or cities located within the new  
18           district's geographical boundaries.

19           (C) Merger support grants shall be available through fiscal year 2032.  
20           Eligible newly formed union school districts shall only be eligible for a merger  
21           support grant pursuant to this section during the fiscal year following voter  
22           approval of a plan of merger.

SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1           (4) Report. Beginning on December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter  
2           until December 1, 2031, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report  
3           to the House Committees on Education and on Ways and Means and the  
4           Senate Committees on Education and on Finance with information regarding  
5           contemplated and active school district mergers and a proposed appropriation  
6           amount for the applicable fiscal year to cover the costs associated with the  
7           grants created pursuant to this section. The report shall include:

8                   (A) a list of school districts that are members of active study  
9                   committees formed pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11, the date the study  
10                  committee formed, and the status of any such study committee;

11                  (B) a list of anticipated new union school districts that are likely to be  
12                  formed during the applicable fiscal year and the forming members and  
13                  anticipated average daily membership of each; and

14                  (C) proposed appropriation amounts for study committee grants and  
15                  merger support grants for the applicable fiscal year based on the merger  
16                  activity observed in the field.

17           (5) Recommended appropriations. The Agency shall include  
18           recommended appropriation amounts for supervisory union transition  
19           facilitation grants, study committee grants, and merger support grants as part of  
20           its budget submitted to the Governor pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 212(21).

21           Sec. 13. APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION FACILITATION, STUDY

22                   COMMITTEE, AND MERGER SUPPORT GRANTS



SU/SD TBD

Changes from last draft

1 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, from fiscal  
2 year ~~2025~~ 2027 through the fiscal year for which the amount is being  
3 determined, and rounding upward to the nearest whole dollar amount.

4 Sec. 15. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 70 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 70. EFFECTIVE DATES

6 \* \* \*

7 (e) Sec. 61a shall take effect on January 1, 2027, ~~provided that the General~~  
8 ~~Assembly has enacted new school district boundaries between the enactment~~  
9 ~~of this act and January 1, 2027.~~

10 (f) The following sections shall take effect on ~~July 1, 2028, provided that~~  
11 ~~the new school districts contemplated by this act have assumed responsibility~~  
12 ~~for the education of all resident students and that the expert tasked with~~  
13 ~~developing a cost factor foundation formula has provided to the General~~  
14 ~~Assembly the report pursuant to Sec. 45a to provide the General Assembly an~~  
15 ~~opportunity to enact legislation in consideration of the report July 1, 2029:~~

16 (1) ~~In~~ Sec. 27, ~~16 V.S.A. § 823(a) and (d)~~ (tuition);

17 (2) Sec. 28 (tuition repeals);

18 (3) Secs. 34–43 (transition to cost-factor foundation formula);

19 (4) Sec. 45b (educational opportunity payment transition);

20 (5) Secs. 46, 47, 49, and 50 (statewide education tax; supplemental  
21 district spending tax);

22 (6) Sec. 46a (supplemental district spending tax; cap; transition);

