



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

16 § 281. SUPERVISORY UNION ONE: SOUTHWEST AREA

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

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

20 Arlington, Bennington, Danby, Dorset, Dover, Glastenbury, Landgrove,  
21 Londonderry, Manchester, Middletown Springs, Mount Tabor, Pawlet, Peru,

1 Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Somerset, Stratton,  
2 Sunderland, Wardsboro, Wells, Weston, Winhall, and Woodford

3 **§ 282. SUPERVISORY UNION TWO: WINDHAM SOUTH**

4 The Windham South 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 Brattleboro, Brookline, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica,  
8 Marlboro, Newfane, Putney, Readsboro, Stamford, Townshend, Vernon,  
9 Whitingham, Wilmington

10 **§ 283. SUPERVISORY UNION THREE: WINDHAM NORTH**

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

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

14 Andover, Athens, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Ludlow,  
15 Mount Holly, Rockingham, Springfield, Westminster, Windham

16 **§ 284. SUPERVISORY UNION FOUR: UPPER VALLEY AREA**

17 The Upper Valley 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...

1           Barnard, Bridgewater, Hartford, Hartland, Killington, Pittsfield,  
2           Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, Weathersfield, West Windsor, Windsor,  
3           Woodstock

4           **§ 285. SUPERVISORY UNION FIVE: RUTLAND AREA**

5           The Rutland 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           Benson, Brandon, Castleton, Chittenden, Clarendon, Fair Haven,  
9           Goshen, Hubbardton, Ira, Leicester, Mendon, Orwell, Pittsford, Poultney,  
10          Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth,  
11          Wallingford, West Haven, West Rutland, Whiting

12          **§ 286. SUPERVISORY UNION SIX: RANDOLPH AREA**

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

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

16          Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Chelsea, Granville, Hancock, Randolph,  
17          Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge

18          **§ 287. SUPERVISORY UNION SEVEN: CENTRAL AREA**

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

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

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

3           **§ 288. SUPERVISORY UNION EIGHT: 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           **§ 289. SUPERVISORY UNION NINE: 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          **§ 290. SUPERVISORY UNION 10: 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,

1 Ferdinand, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Irasburg, Jay, Kirby,  
2 Lemington, Lewis, Lowell, Maidstone, Morgan, Newport City, Newport  
3 Town, Norton, Troy, Victory, Warner’s Grant, Warren’s Gore, Westfield,  
4 Westmore

5 **§ 291. SUPERVISORY UNION 11: NORTHWEST AREA**

6 The Northwest 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 Alburgh, Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Franklin, Grand Isle,  
10 Highgate, Isle La Motte, Montgomery, North Hero, Richford, Sheldon, South  
11 Hero, Swanton

12 **§ 292. SUPERVISORY UNION 12: CHAMPLAIN VALLEY**

13 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

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

17 **§ 293. SUPERVISORY UNION 13: ESSEX WESTFORD SUPERVISORY**

18 **DISTRICT**

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

1 **§ 294. SUPERVISORY UNION 14: BURLINGTON SUPERVISORY**

2 **DISTRICT**

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

5 **§ 295. SUPERVISORY UNION 15: MOUNT MANSFIELD UNIFIED**

6 **UNION SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

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

11 **§ 296. SUPERVISORY UNION 16: SOUTH BURLINGTON**

12 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

13 The South Burlington Supervisory District is formed of the South  
14 Burlington School District, which is composed of South Burlington.

15 **§ 297. SUPERVISORY UNION 17: MAPLE RUN UNIFIED**

16 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

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

20 **§ 298. SUPERVISORY UNION 18: COLCESTER SUPERVISORY**

21 **DISTRICT**

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

3        **§ 299. SUPERVISORY UNION 19: BARRE UNIFIED UNION**

4        **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

5        The Barre Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of the Barre  
6        Unified Union School District, which is composed of Barre City and Barre  
7        Town.

8        **§ 300. SUPERVISORY UNION 20: FRANKLIN WEST SUPERVISORY**

9        **UNION**

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

- 12            (1) Fairfax School District, which is composed of Fairfax;  
13            (2) Fletcher School District, which is composed of Fletcher; and  
14            (3) Georgia School District, which his composed of Georgia.

15        **§ 301. SUPERVISORY UNION 21: HARWOOD UNIFIED UNION**

16        **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

17        The Harwood Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of the Harwood  
18        Unified Union School District, which is composed of Duxbury, Fayston,  
19        Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, and Waterbury.

20        **§ 302. SUPERVISORY UNION 22: ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY**

21        **DISTRICT**

1        The Addison Central Supervisory District is formed of the Addison Central  
2        School District, which is composed of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury,  
3        Ripton, Salisbury, Shorham, and Weybridge.

4        **§ 303. SUPERVISORY UNION 23: MILTON TOWN SUPERVISORY**  
5        **DISTRICT**

6        The Milton Supervisory District is formed of the Milton Town School  
7        District, which is composed of Milton.

8        **§ 304. SUPERVISORY UNION 24: WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED**  
9        **UNION SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

10       The Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory District is formed of  
11       the Washington Central Unified Union School District, which is composed of  
12       Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester.

13       **§ 305. SUPERVISORY UNION 25: MOUNT ABRAHAM UNIFIED**  
14       **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

15       The Mount Abraham Unified Supervisory District is formed of the Mount  
16       Abraham Unified School District, which is composed of Bristol, Monkton,  
17       New Haven, and Starksboro.

18       **§ 306. SUPERVISORY UNION 26: MONTPELIER ROXBURY**  
19       **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

20       The Montpelier Roxbury Supervisory District is formed of the Montpelier  
21       Roxbury School District, which is composed of Montpelier and Roxbury.

1 **§ 307. SUPERVISORY UNION 27: ADDISON NORTHWEST**

2 **SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

3 The Addison Northwest Supervisory District is formed of the Addison  
4 Northwest School District, which is composed of Addison, Ferrisburgh,  
5 Panton, Vergennes, and Waltham.

6 **§ 308. SUPERVISORY UNION 28: WINOOSKI SUPERVISORY**

7 **DISTRICT**

8 The Winooski Supervisory District is formed of the Winooski School  
9 District, which is composed of Winooski.

10 **§ 309. SUPERVISORY UNION 29: CALEDONIA SUPERVISORY UNION**

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

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

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

16 **§ 310. SUPERVISORY UNION 30. LINCOLN SUPERVISORY DISTRICT**

17 The Lincoln Supervisory District is formed of the Lincoln School District,  
18 which is composed of Lincoln.

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

20 § 261. ORGANIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF SUPERVISORY

21 UNIONS

1       (a) ~~The State Board shall review on its own initiative or when requested as~~  
2 ~~per subsection (b) of this section and may regroup the supervisory unions of~~  
3 ~~the State or create new supervisory unions in such manner as to afford~~  
4 ~~increased efficiency or greater convenience and economy and to facilitate~~  
5 ~~prekindergarten through grade 12 curriculum planning and coordination as~~  
6 ~~changed conditions may seem to require. The board of a member school~~  
7 ~~district may propose to the General Assembly to adopt, repeal, or amend~~  
8 ~~boundaries of the supervisory union it belongs to in accordance with the~~  
9 ~~following procedure:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6           (ii) If the school board determines that the boundary adjustment  
7           proposal is too long or unwieldy to set out in amended form, the notice shall  
8           include a concise summary of the boundary adjustment proposal and shall state  
9           that an official copy of the boundary adjustment proposal is on file for public  
10           inspection in the office of the clerk of the school district and that copies thereof  
11           shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4           (ii) if the boundary adjustment proposal was made by voter  
5           petition, the body of the petition and evidence of the required number of  
6           petition signatures;

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

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

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

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

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

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

20           ~~(3) The State Board shall act on a request made pursuant to this~~  
21           ~~subsection within 75 days of receipt of the request and may regroup the school~~

1 ~~districts in the area so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all of these public~~  
2 ~~schools. If the voters do not approve the boundary adjustment proposal, no~~  
3 ~~further action shall be taken unless and until a new boundary adjustment~~  
4 ~~proposal is initiated pursuant to this section.~~

5 (c) ~~The State Board may designate any school district, including a unified~~  
6 ~~union district, as a supervisory district if it will provide for the education of all~~  
7 ~~resident students in prekindergarten through grade 12 and is large enough to~~  
8 ~~support the planning and administrative functions of a supervisory union. If~~  
9 ~~the voters of the member school district vote to approve the boundary~~  
10 ~~adjustment proposal, the boards of the supervisory unions affected by the~~  
11 ~~boundary adjustment request shall hold an advisory vote to approve the~~  
12 ~~boundary adjustment proposal within 45 days after the results of the school~~  
13 ~~district vote. The clerk of the school district requesting the boundary~~  
14 ~~adjustment shall submit the results of the advisory supervisory union board~~  
15 ~~votes to the Secretary of State with the information required to be submitted~~  
16 ~~pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

17 (d) ~~Upon application by a supervisory union board, the State Board may~~  
18 ~~waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to the~~  
19 ~~supervisory union board structure, board composition, or board meetings, or~~  
20 ~~the staffing pattern of the supervisory union, if it can be demonstrated that such~~  
21 ~~a waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory~~

1 ~~union; will not result in any disproportionate representation; and is otherwise~~  
2 ~~in the public interest.~~ If the voters of the member school district vote to  
3 approve the boundary adjustment proposal, after confirming that the clerk of  
4 the member school district has certified each of the documents listed in  
5 subdivision (b)(2) of this section, the Secretary of State shall file the certificate  
6 and deliver copies of it to the Agency of Education, the State Board of  
7 Education, the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, and the chairs  
8 of the committees concerned with supervisory union boundaries of both houses  
9 of the General Assembly.

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

13 Sec. 5. TRANSITION TO NEW SUPERVISORY UNIONS; **REPORT**

14 (a) Transition board formation. Within 30 days following the passage of  
15 this act, the Secretary of Education shall separately call a meeting of the school  
16 directors of the member school districts within each supervisory union. The  
17 number of directors shall be determined and directors shall be elected  
18 according to 16 V.S.A. § 266. Within 30 days thereafter, the Secretary shall  
19 call a meeting and the board shall elect a chair and other necessary officers to  
20 serve as a transition board until the first regular annual election of officers.  
21 The operational date of the new supervisory unions shall be July 1, 2027.

1        (b) Roles and authority during transitional period. During the transition  
2 period:

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

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

11           (3) The transition board shall take all actions necessary to ensure the  
12 supervisory union is able to fully comply with and execute each duty assigned  
13 to a supervisory union pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 261a not later than the  
14 operational date of the new supervisory union.

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

17        (c) Report.

18           (1) On or before December 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall  
19 submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with  
20 recommendations for adjustments to the supervisory union boundaries of the  
21 Champlain Valley Supervisory District, Essex Westford Supervisory District,

1 Burlington Supervisory District, Mount Mansfield Unified Union Supervisory  
2 District, South Burlington Supervisory District, Maple Run Unified  
3 Supervisory District, Colchester Supervisory District, Barre Unified Union  
4 Supervisory District, Franklin West Supervisory Union, Harwood Unified  
5 Union Supervisory District, Addison Central Supervisory District, Milton  
6 Town Supervisory District, Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory  
7 District, Mount Abraham Unified Supervisory District, Montpelier Roxbury  
8 Supervisory District, Addison Northwest Supervisory District, Winooski  
9 Supervisory District, Caledonia Supervisory District, and Lincoln Supervisory  
10 District.

11 (2) The supervisory union boundary adjustment recommendations shall  
12 result in supervisory unions with an aggregate average daily membership of all  
13 member school districts within the supervisory union of not less than 2,752  
14 students. The recommendation may include supervisory districts if the  
15 average daily membership of the supervisory district is also not less than 2,752  
16 students.

17 \* \* \* School District Consolidation \* \* \*

18 Sec. 6. REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

19 (a) Reduction in number of school districts; goal. On or before July 1,  
20 2029, the State shall provide educational opportunities through 50 percent

1 fewer school districts than exist on July 1, 2026, through the actions described  
2 in this section.

3 (b) Supervisory union member district mergers. On or before September 1,  
4 2026, the member school district boards of the following supervisory unions  
5 shall establish study committees to study the advisability of forming a new or  
6 expanded union school district in any combination that results in the reduction  
7 in the number of individual member school districts by 50 percent across all  
8 supervisory unions, pursuant to the processes and requirements of 16 V.S.A.  
9 chapter 11:

10 (1) Southwest Area Supervisory Union;

11 (2) Windham South Supervisory Union;

12 (3) Windham North Supervisory Union;

13 (4) Upper Valley Area Supervisory Union;

14 (5) Rutland Area Supervisory Union;

15 (6) Randolph Area Supervisory Union;

16 (7) Central Area Supervisory Union;

17 (8) Caledonia Area Supervisory Union;

18 (9) Lamoille Area Supervisory Union;

19 (10) Essex-Orleans Area Supervisory Union; and

20 (11) Northwest Area Supervisory Union.

21 Sec. 7. OPERATION MODEL PROTECTION

1        (a) Intent. Nothing in this act shall be construed to restrict or repeal, or to  
2        authorize, encourage, or contemplate the restriction or repeal of, the ability of a  
3        school district that, as of the effective date of this section, provides for the  
4        education of all resident students in one or more grades:

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

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

9        (b) School operation. All governance transitions contemplated pursuant to  
10        this act shall preserve the ability of a district that, as of the effective date of this  
11        section, provides for the education of all resident students in one or more  
12        grades by operating a school for all students in the grade or grades if it chooses  
13        to do so and shall not require the district to pay tuition for students if it ceases  
14        to exist as a discrete entity and realigns into a supervisory district or union  
15        school district.

16        (c) Tuition payment. All governance transitions contemplated pursuant to  
17        this act shall preserve the ability of a district that, as of the effective date of this  
18        section, provides for the education of all resident students in one or more  
19        grades by paying tuition on the students' behalf, to continue to provide  
20        education by paying tuition on behalf of all students in the grade or grades if it  
21        chooses to do so and shall not require the district to limit the options available

1 to students if it ceases to exist as a discrete entity and realigns into a  
2 supervisory district or union school district.

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

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

7 School districts. When evaluating a proposal to create a union school  
8 district pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11, including a proposal submitted  
9 pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 6 of this act, the State Board of Education  
10 shall:

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

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

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

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

6           Sec. 9. NONMERGING DISTRICT PROPOSALS

7           On or before November 30, 2027, the board of each school district listed in  
8           Sec. 6(b) that is not a member of a newly formed school district or that does  
9           not expect to become a member of a newly formed school district on or before  
10           July 1, 2029, solely on behalf of its own district or jointly with the boards of  
11           other districts, shall submit a proposal to the Secretary of Education and the  
12           State Board of Education in which the district:

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

16           (2) demonstrates, through reference to enrollment projections,  
17           student-to-staff ratios, the comprehensive data collected pursuant to 16 V.S.A.  
18           § 165, and otherwise, how the proposal submitted pursuant to this section  
19           supports the district's or districts' ability to meet or exceed each of the goals  
20           set forth in Sec. 1 of this act; and

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

4           Sec. 10. FINAL STATE ACTION

5           (a) Agency of Education’s proposal. In order to modernize Vermont’s  
6           school district governance structures and meet the goals set forth in Sec. 1 of  
7           this act while reducing the number of school districts located within the  
8           supervisory unions listed in Sec. 6(b) by 50 percent, the Secretary shall:

9           (1) Review the governance structures of the school districts and  
10           supervisory unions listed in Sec. 6(b) as they will exist, or are anticipated to  
11           exist, on July 1, 2029. This review shall include consideration of any  
12           proposals submitted by districts or groups of districts pursuant to Sec. 9 of this  
13           act and conversations with those and other districts.

14           (2) On or before June 1, 2028, the Secretary shall develop, publish on  
15           the Agency of Education’s website, and present to the State Board of  
16           Education a proposed plan that, to the extent necessary to promote the purpose  
17           stated at the beginning of this subsection, would merge districts into larger  
18           school districts in an effort to reduce the number of school districts located  
19           within the supervisory unions listed in Sec. 6(b) by 50 percent, to not more  
20           than 56 total school districts statewide. The Agency shall only recommend  
21           merging districts with the same operating structures. If it is not possible or

1 practicable to develop a proposal that realigns some districts, where necessary,  
2 in a manner that adheres to the protections of Sec. 7 of this act (protection for  
3 tuition-paying and operating districts), then the proposal may also allow some  
4 school districts not to merge and instead to continue to exist and operate as  
5 they did as of July 1, 2026.

6 (3) Any mergers proposed by the Agency shall meet the following  
7 criteria:

8 (A) only school districts with small student counts shall be merged;

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

13 (C) only school districts with adequate infrastructure capacity to  
14 consolidate schools should such a need develop shall be merged;

15 (D) mergers shall lead to improved opportunity for resident students;

16 and

17 (E) mergers shall lead to the potential to gain staffing and  
18 administrative efficiencies.

19 (b) State Board’s plan.

20 (1) School districts. On or before November 30, 2028, the State Board  
21 shall review and analyze the Secretary’s proposal under the provisions in

1 subsection (a) of this section, may take testimony or ask for additional  
2 information from districts and supervisory unions, shall approve the proposal  
3 either in its original form or in an amended form that adheres to the provisions  
4 of subsection (a) of this section, and shall publish on the Agency’s website its  
5 order merging and realigning districts. The Board shall be prohibited from  
6 merging school districts whose operating structures differ as of July 1, 2026.

7 (2) Supervisory unions after mergers. On or before November 30, 2028,  
8 the State Board shall submit a written report to the House and Senate  
9 Committees on Education with recommended supervisory union boundaries  
10 that reflect the new school districts created through voluntary merger pursuant  
11 to Sec. 6 of this act and the Board’s order merging and realigning school  
12 districts pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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

14 (1) an interstate school district;

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

16 (3) a regional career technical center school district formed under  
17 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 5A; or

18 (4) a school district that, between July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2028, began  
19 to operate as a unified union school district or obtained an affirmative vote of  
20 all necessary districts to voluntarily merge into a new union school district  
21 pursuant to Sec. 6 of this act; provided, however, that as part of the State

1 Board’s plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the State  
2 Board may realign a newly formed unified union school district to include a  
3 geographically isolated district where necessary to achieve the goals of this act.

4 Sec. 11. QUALITY ASSURANCE; ACCOUNTABILITY; DATA  
5 COLLECTION; REPORT

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

8 (1) the discussions, studies, and activity among districts to move  
9 voluntarily toward creating new, larger school districts pursuant to Sec. 3 of  
10 this act; and

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

16 \* \* \* Exploration and Transition Grants \* \* \*

17 Sec. 12. EXPLORATION AND TRANSITION GRANTS; REPORT

18 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025:

19 (1) Supervisory union transition facilitation grant. Within 15 days  
20 following the date each transitional board of each supervisory union created  
21 pursuant to this act holds a meeting to elect a chair and other necessary officers

1 pursuant to Sec. 5(a), the Secretary of Education shall, from the Education  
2 Fund, pay each transitional board a supervisory union transition facilitation  
3 grant in the amount of \$250,000.00.

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

10 (3) Merger support grant.

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

16 (i) 10 percent of the base education amount established in  
17 16 V.S.A. § 4001(13) multiplied by the greater of either the combined  
18 enrollment or the average daily membership of the merging districts on  
19 October 1 of the year in which the successful vote is taken; or

20 (ii) \$300,000.00.

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

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

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

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

12           (4) Report. Beginning on December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter  
13           until December 1, 3031, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report  
14           to the House Committees on Education and on Ways and Means and the  
15           Senate Committees on Education and on Finance with information regarding  
16           contemplated and active school district mergers and a proposed appropriation  
17           amount for the applicable fiscal year to cover the costs associated with the  
18           grants created pursuant to this section. The report shall include:

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

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

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

7           (5) Recommended appropriations. The Agency shall include  
8           recommended appropriation amounts for study committee grants and merger  
9           support grants as part of its budget submitted to the Governor pursuant to 16  
10          V.S.A. § 212(21).

11          Sec. 13. APPROPRIATION; TRANSITION FACILITATION, STUDY  
12                          COMMITTEE, AND MERGER SUPPORT GRANTS

13          (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the sum of \$2,750,000.00 is  
14          appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal  
15          year 2027 for the purpose of awarding supervisory union transition facilitation  
16          grants pursuant to Sec. 12(1) of this act.

17          (b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the sum of \$50,000.00 is  
18          appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal  
19          year 2027 for the purpose of awarding study committee support grants  
20          pursuant to Sec. 12(2) of this act.



1                    ~~AND PER PUPIL EDUCATION SPENDING~~ EDUCATIONAL  
2                    OPPORTUNITY PAYMENT

3                    (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

4                    (1) “EL pupils” means pupils described under section 4013 of this title.

5                    (2) “FPL” means the Federal Poverty Level.

6                    (3) “Weighting categories” means the categories listed under subsection  
7 (b) of this section.

8                    (4) “Child with a disability” means any child in Vermont eligible under  
9 State rules to receive special education who is enrolled in any of kindergarten  
10 through grade 12.

11                    (5) “Disability” means any of:

12                    (A) a specific learning disability or a speech or language impairment,  
13 each of which is identified as “Category A”;

14                    (B) an emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, developmental  
15 delay, or other health impairment, each of which is identified as “Category B”;

16 or

17                    (C) autism spectrum disorder, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment,  
18 orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment, each of  
19 which is identified as “Category C.”

20                    (6) “English language proficiency level” means each of the English  
21 language proficiency levels published as a standardized measure of academic

1 language proficiency in WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and available to  
2 members of the WIDA consortium of state departments of education.

3 (7) “Newcomer or SLIFE” means a pupil identified as a New American  
4 or as a student with limited or interrupted formal education.

5 (b) Determination of average daily membership and weighting categories.  
6 On or before the first day of December during each school year, the Secretary  
7 shall determine the average daily membership, as defined in subdivision  
8 4001(1) of this title, of each school district for the current school year and shall  
9 ~~perform the following tasks:~~

10 ~~(1) Using~~ using average daily membership, list for each school district  
11 the number of:

12 ~~(A)(1)~~ (1) pupils in prekindergarten;

13 ~~(B)(2)~~ (2) pupils in kindergarten through grade five;

14 ~~(C)(3)~~ (3) pupils in grades six through eight;

15 ~~(D)(4)~~ (4) pupils in grades nine through 12;

16 ~~(E)(5)~~ (5) pupils whose families are at or below 185 percent of FPL,

17 using the highest number of pupils in the district:

18 ~~(i)(A)~~ (A) that meet this definition under the universal income  
19 declaration form; or

20 ~~(ii)(B)~~ (B) who are directly certified for free and reduced-priced  
21 meals; ~~and~~

1           ~~(F)(6)~~ EL pupils who have been most recently assessed at an English  
2 language proficiency level of:

3           (A) Level 1;

4           (B) Level 2 or 3;

5           (C) Level 4; or

6           (D) Level 5 or 6;

7           (7) EL pupils who are identified as Newcomer or SLIFE; and

8           (8) children with a disability whose disability is identified as:

9           (A) Category A;

10          (B) Category B; or

11          (C) Category C, provided that a child with multiple disabilities shall  
12 be counted solely under this subdivision (C).

13          ~~(2)(A) Identify all school districts that have low population density,~~  
14 ~~measured by the number of persons per square mile residing within the land~~  
15 ~~area of the geographic boundaries of the district as of July 1 of the year of~~  
16 ~~determination, equaling:~~

17                 ~~(i) fewer than 36 persons per square mile;~~

18                 ~~(ii) 36 or more persons per square mile but fewer than 55 persons~~  
19 ~~per square mile; or~~

20                 ~~(iii) 55 or more persons per square mile but fewer than 100~~  
21 ~~persons per square mile.~~

1           ~~(B) Population density data shall be based on the best available U.S.~~  
2           ~~Census data as provided to the Agency of Education by the Vermont Center for~~  
3           ~~Geographic Information.~~

4           ~~(C) Using average daily membership, list for each school district that~~  
5           ~~has low population density the number of pupils in each of subdivisions~~  
6           ~~(A)(i)–(iii) of this subdivision (2).~~

7           ~~(3)(A) Identify all school districts that have one or more small schools,~~  
8           ~~which are schools that have an average two year enrollment of:~~

9                     ~~(i) fewer than 100 pupils; or~~

10                    ~~(ii) 100 or more pupils but fewer than 250 pupils.~~

11           ~~(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3), “average two-~~  
12           ~~year enrollment” means the average enrollment of the two most recently~~  
13           ~~completed school years, and “enrollment” means the number of pupils who are~~  
14           ~~enrolled in a school operated by the district on October 1. A pupil shall be~~  
15           ~~counted as one whether the pupil is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student.~~

16           ~~(C) Using average two year enrollment, list for each school district~~  
17           ~~that has a small school the number of pupils in each of subdivisions (A)(i)–(ii)~~  
18           ~~of this subdivision (3).~~

19           (c) Reporting on weighting categories to the Agency of Education. Each  
20           school district shall annually report to the Agency of Education by a date  
21           established by the Agency the information needed in order for the Agency to

1 compute the weighting categories under subsection (b) of this section for that  
2 district. In order to fulfill this obligation, a school district that pays public  
3 tuition on behalf of a resident student (sending district) to a public school in  
4 another school district, an approved independent school, or an out-of-state  
5 school (each a receiving school) may request the receiving school to collect  
6 this information on the sending district's resident student, and if requested, the  
7 receiving school shall provide this information to the sending district in a  
8 timely manner.

9 (d) Determination of weighted long-term membership. For each weighting  
10 category ~~except the small schools weighting category under subdivision (b)(3)~~  
11 ~~of this section~~, the Secretary shall compute the weighting count by using the  
12 long-term membership, as defined in subdivision 4001(7) of this title, in that  
13 category.

14 (1) ~~The Secretary shall first apply grade level weights~~ Prekindergarten  
15 weight. Each pupil included in long-term membership ~~shall count as one,~~  
16 ~~multiplied by the following amounts~~ who is enrolled in:

17 (A) prekindergarten—shall receive an additional weighting amount  
18 of negative 0.54; and

19 (B) grades six through eight—0.36; and [Repealed.]

20 (C) grades nine through 12—0.39 shall receive an additional  
21 weighting amount of 0.10.

1           (2) ~~The Secretary shall next apply a~~ Economic disadvantage weight for  
2 ~~pupils whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL.~~ Each pupil included in  
3 long-term membership whose family is at or below 185 percent of FPL shall  
4 receive an additional weighting amount of ~~1.03~~ 1.02.

5           (3) ~~The Secretary shall next apply a weight for EL pupils~~ EL proficiency  
6 weights. Each EL pupil included in long-term membership shall receive an  
7 additional weighting amount, based on the EL pupil's English language  
8 proficiency level, of ~~2.49~~:

9                   (A) 2.11, if assessed as Level 1;

10                   (B) 1.41, if assessed as Level 2 or 3;

11                   (C) 1.20, if assessed as Level 4; or

12                   (D) 0.12, if assessed as Level 5 or 6.

13           (4) ~~The Secretary shall then apply a weight for pupils living in low~~  
14 ~~population density school districts~~ EL Newcomer/SLIFE weight. Each EL  
15 pupil included in long-term membership ~~residing in a low population density~~  
16 ~~school district, measured by the number of persons per square mile residing~~  
17 ~~within the land area of the geographic boundaries of the district as of July 1 of~~  
18 ~~the year of determination,~~ who is a Newcomer or SLIFE shall receive an  
19 additional weighting amount of: 0.42

20                   (A) ~~0.15, where the number of persons per square mile is fewer than~~  
21 ~~36 persons;~~

1           ~~(B) 0.12, where the number of persons per square mile is 36 or more~~  
2           ~~but fewer than 55 persons; or~~

3           ~~(C) 0.07, where the number of persons per square mile is 55 or more~~  
4           ~~but fewer than 100.~~

5           (5) ~~The Secretary shall lastly apply a weight for pupils who attend a~~  
6           ~~small school. If the number of persons per square mile residing within the land~~  
7           ~~area of the geographic boundaries of a school district as of July 1 of the year of~~  
8           ~~determination is 55 or fewer, then, for each pupil listed under subdivision~~  
9           ~~(b)(3)(C) of this section (pupils who attend small schools) Special education~~  
10           ~~weights. Each child with a disability included in long-term membership shall~~  
11           ~~receive an additional weighting amount, based on the categorization of the~~  
12           ~~child's disability, of:~~

13           ~~(A) where the school has fewer than 100 pupils in average two-year~~  
14           ~~enrollment, the school district shall receive an additional weighting amount of~~  
15           ~~0.21 for each pupil included in the small school's average two-year enrollment~~  
16           ~~0.79, if the disability is identified as Category A; or~~

17           ~~(B) where the small school has 100 or more but fewer than 250~~  
18           ~~pupils, the school district shall receive an additional weighting amount of 0.07~~  
19           ~~for each pupil included in the small school's average two-year enrollment 1.89,~~  
20           ~~if the disability is identified as Category B; or~~

21           ~~(C) 2.49, if the disability is identified as Category C.~~



1 of a professional judgment panel convened by the Agency, updates to the  
2 weights and the base amount, including any inflationary measure, to account  
3 for cost changes underlying those weights and shall issue a written report on  
4 their work to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House  
5 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance. The  
6 General Assembly shall update the weights under this section, the base  
7 amount, and transportation reimbursement under section 4016 of this title not  
8 less than every five years and the implementation date for the updated weights  
9 and transportation reimbursement shall be delayed by a year in order to  
10 provide school districts with time to prepare their budgets. Updates to the  
11 weights may include recalibration, recalculation, adding or eliminating  
12 weights, or any combination of these actions.

13 Sec. 17. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 70 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 70. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 \* \* \*

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

19 (f) The following sections shall take effect on ~~July 1, 2028, provided that~~  
20 ~~the new school districts contemplated by this act have assumed responsibility~~  
21 ~~for the education of all resident students and that the expert tasked with~~

1 ~~developing a cost-factor foundation formula has provided to the General~~  
2 ~~Assembly the report pursuant to Sec. 45a to provide the General Assembly an~~  
3 ~~opportunity to enact legislation in consideration of the report July 1, 2029:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (7) Sec. 48a (tax rate transition);

12 (8) Secs. 51, 52, and 54–56 (property tax credit repeal; creation of  
13 homestead exemption);

14 (9) Sec. 57 (Education Fund Advisory Committee; review of foundation  
15 formula); and

16 (10) Secs. 60 and 61 (property tax classifications).

17 (g) ~~In Sec. 27, 16 V.S.A. § 823(b) and (c) shall take effect on July 1, 2028,~~  
18 ~~provided that the new school districts contemplated by this act have assumed~~  
19 ~~responsibility for the education of all resident students and that the cost factor~~  
20 ~~foundation formula report required pursuant to Sec. 45a contains evidence that~~  
21 ~~it costs more to educate students in grades nine through 12 but the General~~

1 ~~Assembly has failed to enact legislation to add a secondary student weight.~~

2 [Deleted.]

3 (h) Sec. 62 (regional assessment districts) shall take effect on January 1,  
4 2029.

5 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

6 Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, except that Secs. 14 (16 V.S.A.

8 § 4001(16)) and 16 (16 V.S.A. § 4010) shall take effect on July 1, 2029.