

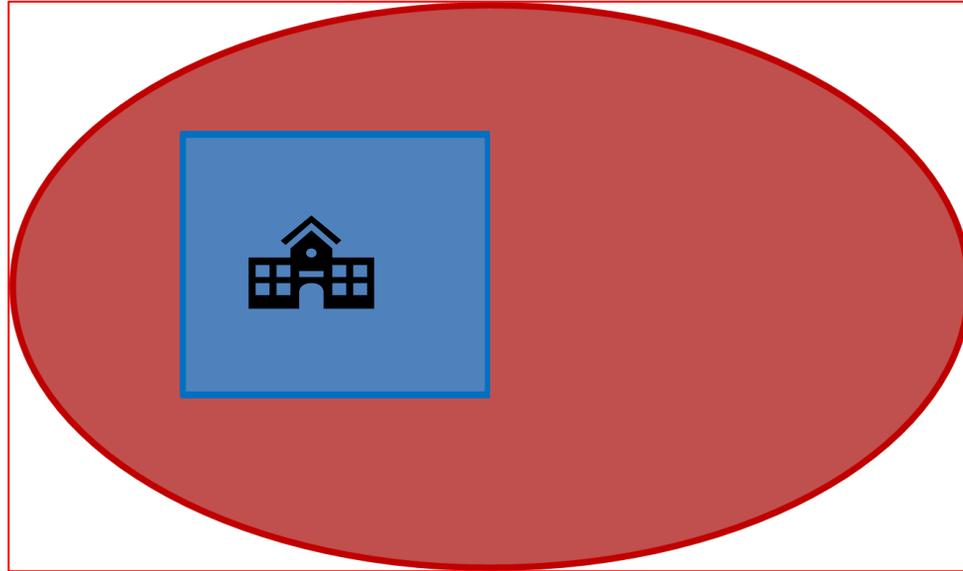
School Governance 101

Beth St. James, Legislative Counsel

February 24, 2026

Senate Education Committee

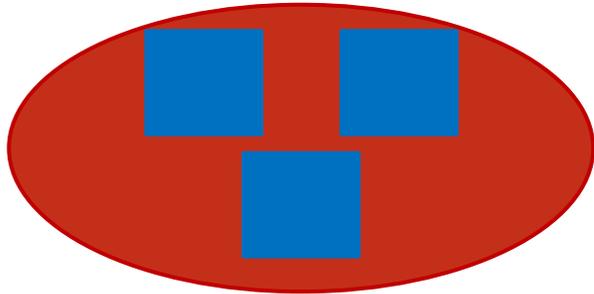
- **Supervisory Union**
- **School District**
- **School**



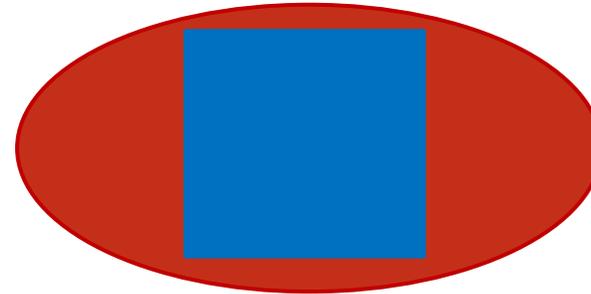
Supervisory Unions: administrative, planning, and educational service units created by the State Board

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

Supervisory Union (multi school districts)



Supervisory District (one school district)



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

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

School Districts:

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

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

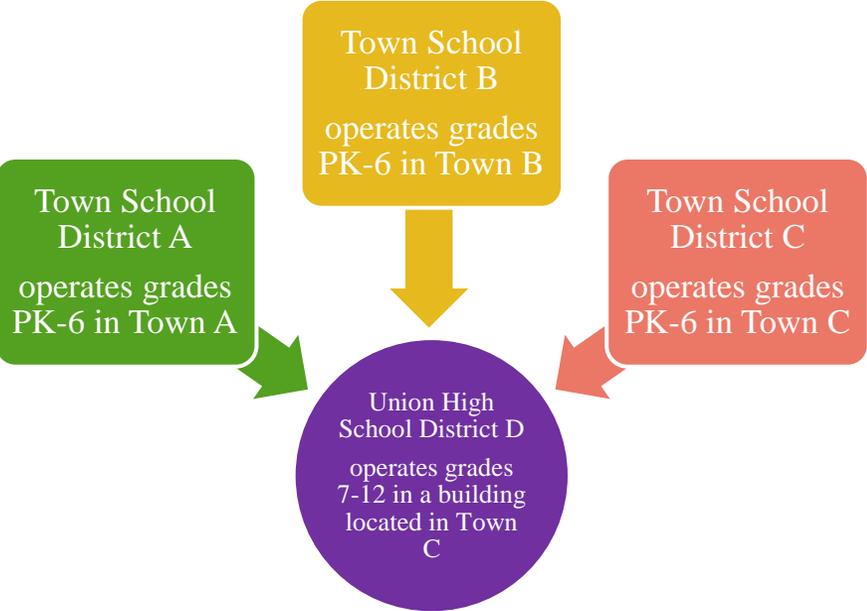
School Districts

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

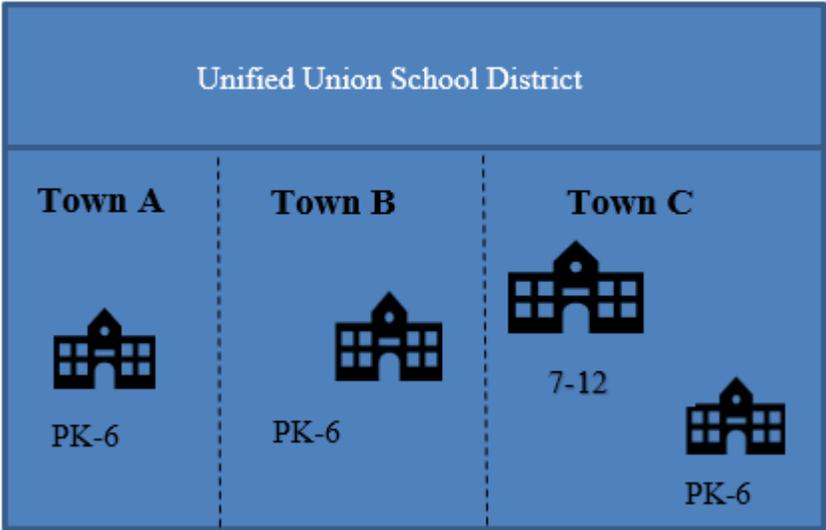
- ▶ Set educational policies of the school district
- ▶ May take any action that is required for the sound administration of the school district
- ▶ Shall have the possession, care, control, and management of the property of the district
- ▶ Shall keep school buildings and grounds in good repair
- ▶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

Union School Districts

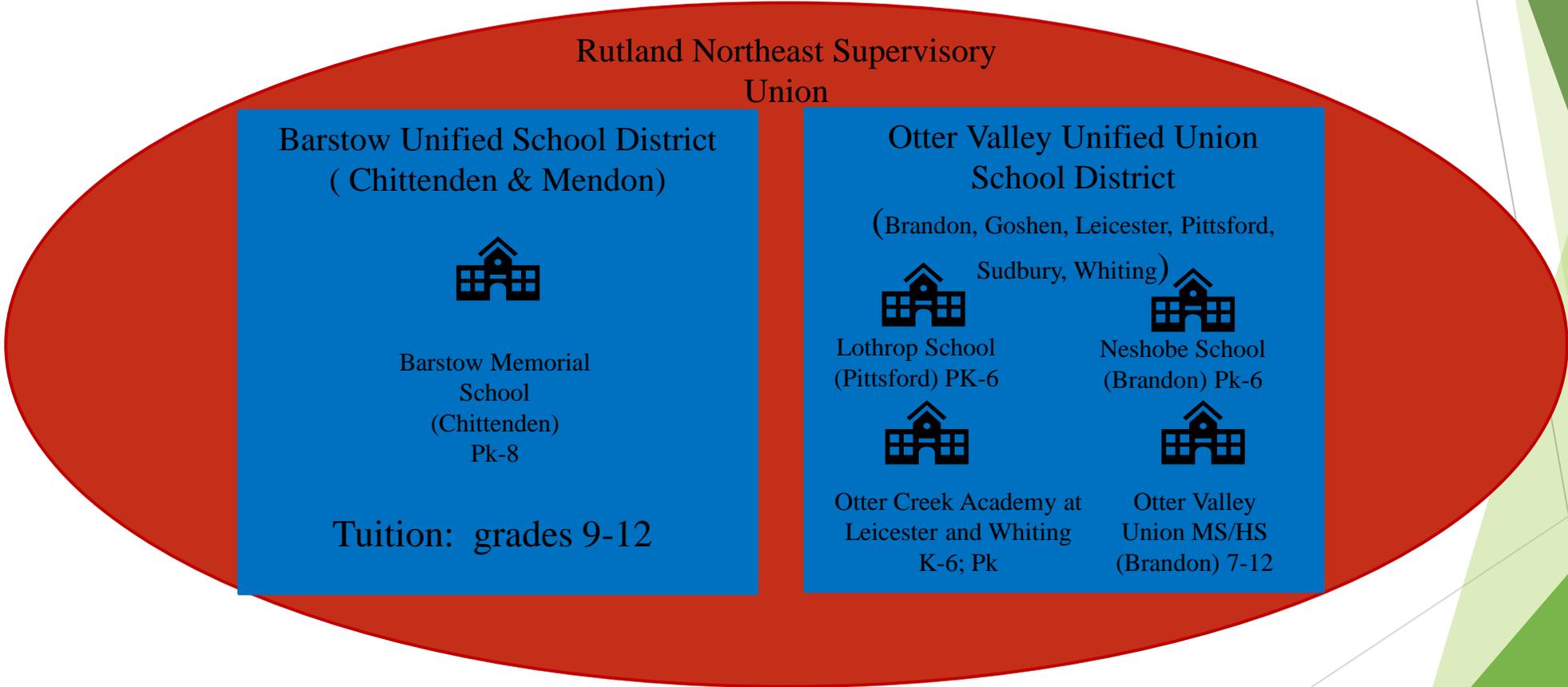
Union Elementary and High School District



Unified Union School District



Example 1: Rutland Northeast **Supervisory** **Union**



Example 2: Milton Supervisory District

Milton Supervisory District

Milton Town School District



Milton Elementary
School
PK-4

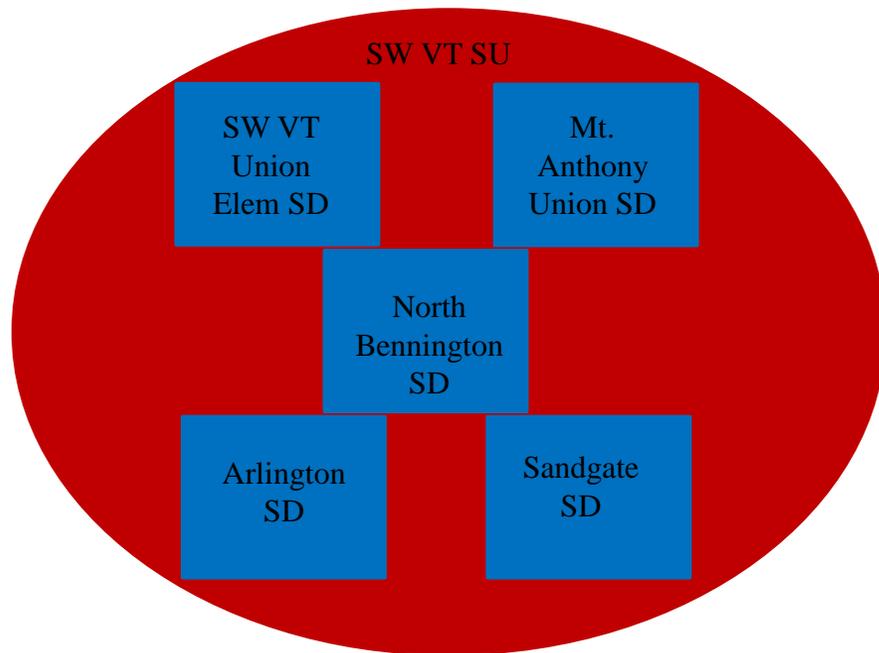


Milton Middle School
5-8



Milton High School
9-12

Example 3: Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union



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