

Topics of Discussion

1. How does the proposal support your ability to “provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities” in a “sustainable” manner?
 - a. In re: students within the district(s) (e.g., chronically underserved versus not cu?)
 - b. In re: district’s students versus other districts in the region / State?

What “detailed actions” will you take to “continue to improve” in re: this goal?

2. How does the proposal support your ability to “lead students to achieve or exceed the State’s Education Quality Standards” in a “sustainable” manner?
 - a. In re: students within the district(s) (e.g., chronically underserved versus not cu?)
 - b. In re: district’s students versus other districts in the region / State?

What “detailed actions” will you take to “continue to improve” in re: this goal?

3. How does the proposal support your ability to “maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff?”

What “detailed actions” will you take to “continue to improve” in re: this goal?

4. How does the proposal support your ability to “promote transparency and accountability” in a “sustained” manner?
5. How does the proposal support your ability to “deliver[education] at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value” in a “sustained” manner?
6. If there is another nearby district with the same o/t structure – then
 - a. Why is merger not “possible”?
 - b. Why is merger not “practicable”?
7. If not proposing SU enlargement/merger – then
 - a. Why not?
 - b. If SBE redraws SU boundaries per 16 VSA § 261, where should boundaries be?

“Alternative Structure” Includes:

- A supervisory union “composed of multiple member districts, each with its separate school board.” (Act 46, Sec. 5(c) and 10(a)(2))
- A “unified union school district with [an] average daily membership” of less than 900 (Act 46, Sec. 10(a)(2))

Act 46, Sec. 5(c), as amended by Act 49, Sec. 7:

SU with multiple member districts “*may meet the State’s goals, particularly if:*”

- Consider selves to be *collectively responsible* for PK-12 students
- SU *complies* with SpEd, transportation, etc requirements of § 261a
- SU “has the *smallest number of member school districts practicable*, achieved wherever possible by the merger of districts with *similar operating and tuitioning patterns*”
- SU “has the smallest number of member school districts practicable after consideration of *greatly differing levels of indebtedness* among member districts”
- Combined *ADM 900+*

Proposal (Act 46, Sec. 9(a)(3)):

- “demonstrate[] through reference to enrollment projections, student-to-staff ratios, the comprehensive data collected pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165, and otherwise, *how the proposal ... supports the district’s or districts’ ability to meet or exceed each of the” Goals*
- “*identif[y] detailed actions* it proposes to take to continue to improve its performance in connection with each of the” Goals

Statewide Plan (Act 46, Sec. 10):

- “provide educational opportunities through *sustainable governance structures* designed to meet the” Goals of Act 46
- “*If it is not possible or practicable* [for the Statewide Plan to merge Remaining Districts, where necessary, into a Preferred Structure] in a manner that adheres to the ... protection for tuition-paying and operating districts[] or that otherwise meets all aspects of Sec. 5(b), then the [Plan] *may also include alternative governance structures as necessary, such as a supervisory union with member districts or a unified union school district with a smaller average daily membership.*”

(Act 46, Sec. 8(b)):

“State Board shall approve the *creation, expansion, or continuation* of a supervisory union *only if* the Board concludes that this alternative structure:

- (1) is the *best* means of meeting the [Goals] in a particular region;
and
- (2) ensures *transparency and accountability* for the member districts and the public at large”