

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN

47	151	151	FALMOUTH
47	551	109	CUMBERLAND
47	551	313	NORTH YARMOUTH
Total			Falmouth/MSAD 51 (Cumberland/N. Yarmouth)

RSU 47

Total Number of Towns = 3

Falmouth High School
 Greely High School

Total Number of High Schools = 2

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2 TOTAL	K-5 TOTAL	6 to 8 TOTAL	ELEM TOTAL	SEC TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL
421	947	552	1,499	648	2,147
339	681	373	1,054	458	1,512
127	282	149	431	238	669
887	1,910	1,074	2,984	1,344	4,328

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN
 48 353 353 PORTLAND
 Total Portland

RSU 48
Total Number of Towns = 1

Portland High School
 Deering High School
 Casco Bay High School

Total Number of High Schools = 3

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
1,575	3,092	1,501	4,593	2,447	7,040
1,575	3,092	1,501	4,593	2,447	7,040

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
49	403	403	SOUTH PORTLAND
49	075	075	CAPE ELIZABETH
Total			South Portland/Cape Elizabeth

RSU 49
Total Number of Towns = 2

South Portland High School
Cape Elizabeth High School

Total Number of High Schools = 2

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
725	1,382	679	2,061	1,010	3,071
358	780	428	1,208	587	1,795
1,083	2,162	1,107	3,269	1,597	4,866

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN
 50 383 383 SCARBOROUGH
Total Scarborough

RSU 50
Total Number of Towns = 1

Scarborough High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
718	1,505	799	2,304	1,009	3,313
718	1,505	799	2,304	1,009	3,313

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN
 51 171 171 GORHAM
Total Gorham

RSU 51
Total Number of Towns = 1

Gorham High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
569	1,180	654	1,834	889	2,723
569	1,180	654	1,834	889	2,723

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
52	362	362	RAYMOND
52	478	478	WINDHAM
Total			Raymond/Windham

RSU 52
Total Number of Towns = 2

Windham High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
175	346	197	543	270	813
575	1,230	611	1,841	866	2,707
750	1,576	808	2,384	1,136	3,520

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
53	465	465	WESTBROOK
Total			Westbrook

RSU 53
Total Number of Towns = 1

Westbrook High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
577	1,144	577	1,721	799	2,520
577	1,144	577	1,721	799	2,520

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN

54	506	068	BUXTON
54	506	173	FRYE ISLAND
54	506	203	HOLLIS
54	506	237	LIMINGTON
54	506	408	STANDISH
Total			MSAD 6 (Buxton/Standish/Hollis/Limington)

RSU 54

Total Number of Towns = 5

Bonny Eagle High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
313	584	310	894	392	1,286
0	0	0	0	0	0
146	287	153	440	209	649
133	285	137	422	211	633
361	721	374	1,095	466	1,561
953	1,877	974	2,851	1,278	4,129

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN
 55 040 040 BIDDEFORD
Total Biddeford

RSU 55
Total Number of Towns = 1

Biddeford High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
607	1,205	654	1,859	923	2,782
607	1,205	654	1,859	923	2,782

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
56	116	116	DAYTON
56	320	320	OLD ORCHARD BEACH
56	374	374	SACO
Total			Old Orchard Beach/Saco/Dayton

RSU 56

Total Number of Towns = 3

Old Orchard Beach High School
Thornton Academy (60/40)

Total Number of High Schools = 2

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	75	176	104	280	119
	213	396	244	640	313
	546	1,135	632	1,767	1,005
	834	1,707	980	2,687	1,437
					4,124

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
57	016	016	ARUNDEL
57	571	219	KENNEBUNK
57	571	220	KENNEBUNKPORT
57	918	462	WELLS
57	918	498	OGUNQUIT
Total			Arundel/MSAD 71 (Kennebunk)/Wells/Ogunquit

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
124	251	128	379	240	619
341	711	467	1,178	647	1,825
83	190	110	300	161	461
275	575	332	907	454	1,361
10	20	14	34	17	51
833	1,747	1,051	2,798	1,519	4,317

RSU 57

Total Number of Towns = 5

Kennebunk High School
Wells High School

Total Number of High Schools = 2

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
58	492	492	YORK
58	223	223	KITTERY
Total			York/Kittery

RSU 58
Total Number of Towns = 2

Robert W. Traip Academy
 York High School

Total Number of High Schools = 2

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
386	830	470	1,300	668	1,968
236	481	244	725	356	1,081
622	1,311	714	2,025	1,024	3,049

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
59	557	006	ALFRED
59	557	235	LIMERICK
59	557	252	LYMAN
59	557	298	NEWFIELD
59	557	390	SHAPLEIGH
59	557	454	WATERBORO
Total			MSAD 57 (Waterboro)

RSU 59

Total Number of Towns = 6

Massabesic High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
98	159	95	254	121	375
113	214	141	355	151	506
130	272	142	414	217	631
42	90	63	153	83	236
88	164	105	269	138	407
289	636	372	1,008	467	1,475
760	1,535	918	2,453	1,177	3,630

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
60	002	002	ACTON
60	381	381	SANFORD
Total			Sanford/Acton

RSU 60

Total Number of Towns = 2

Sanford High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
80	178	100	278	125	403
822	1,392	809	2,201	1,249	3,450
902	1,570	909	2,479	1,374	3,853

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN

61	560	038	BERWICK
61	560	229	LEBANON
61	560	309	NORTH BERWICK
Total			MSAD 60 (Berwick/Lebanon/N. Berwick)

RSU 61

Total Number of Towns = 3

Noble High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
247	508	292	800	442	1,242
219	474	288	762	366	1,128
135	278	175	453	256	709
601	1,260	755	2,015	1,064	3,079

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU SAU TWN

62 535 142 ELIOT
 62 535 400 SOUTH BERWICK
Total MSAD 35 (S. Berwick/Eliot)

RSU 62

Total Number of Towns = 2

Marshwood High School

Total Number of High Schools = 1

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
263	500	227	727	347	1,074
353	663	335	998	504	1,502
616	1,163	562	1,725	851	2,576

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
63	499	499	CHEBEAGUE ISLAND
63	565	266	MATINICUS ISLE PLT.
63	211	211	ISLESBORO
63	507	311	NORTH HAVEN
63	508	443	VINALHAVEN
63	280	280	MONHEGAN PLT.
63	210	210	ISLE AU HAUT
63	106	106	CRANBERRY ISLES
63	247	247	FRENCHBORO
63	576	421	SWANS ISLAND
63	355	355	LONG ISLAND
Total			Island Consortium

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
9	17	11	28	11	39
3	4	1	5	1	6
12	32	18	50	27	77
10	31	13	44	21	65
42	96	35	131	75	206
1	4	3	7	0	7
1	3	2	5	4	9
2	9	7	16	5	21
8	12	1	13	0	13
14	21	10	31	13	44
7	13	8	21	6	27
109	242	109	351	163	514

Resident Pupils for 2007- 08 funding
Suggested Model for Reorganizing School Units 5/18/07

RSU	SAU	TWN	
64	791	791	INDIAN ISLAND
64	792	792	INDIAN TOWNSHIP
64	793	793	PLEASANT POINT
Total			Maine Indian Education

October 1st with manual corrections

Sads & CSDs exclude Supt Agreements

K-2	K-5	6 to 8	ELEM	SEC	GRAND
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	54	84	35	119	29
	50	92	50	142	34
	37	72	37	109	55
	141	248	122	370	118
					488

AFA / EDU Joint Public Hearing on School District Regionalization Bills
February 5, 2007 @ Augusta Civic Ctr.

LR or LD	Sponsor	LR or LD Title
LD 499 Part MM	Commissioner Gendron for Governor Baldacci	An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009 (aka, "FY 2008 & FY 2009 Biennium Budget Bill")
LR 1386 Part C	Senate President Edmonds	An Act To Ensure Responsible Government Spending and Investment
LD 464	Senator Mitchell	An Act To Reform Public Education by Encouraging Regional Approaches
LR 1148	Representative Silsby	An Act To Encourage School Administrative Units To Collaborate with Other School Administrative Units
LD 370	Senator Turner	Resolve, To Reduce the Number of School Administrative Units and Gain Administrative Efficiencies
LR 1415	Senator Mills	An Act to Increase Efficiency in School Administration
LR 1619	Senator Rotundo	Resolve, To Prepare Students for Success in the Twenty-first Century

123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair

Representative Jeremy R. Fischer, House Chair

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Senator Peter B. Bowman, Senate Chair *Representative Jacqueline R. Norton, House Chair*

Ground Rules for Public Hearing on School District Regionalization Bills:

February 5, 2007

In order to receive testimony from the greatest number of people, and in the most orderly manner, please respect the following ground rules:

1. Sponsors of the 7 bills will present a summary of their legislative proposals. Copies of these bills are available in the entrance hall and online at the Legislature's website: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/>
2. The Committees will split up to form two "mixed panels" of Appropriations and Education Committee members for two "concurrent" public hearing sessions. One panel will take public testimony in this room (Capital / Pine Tree Rooms) and the other will do the same downstairs in the Fort Western / Howard Rooms.
3. Public comment will be taken on a "1st-come, 1st-served basis." Those wishing to testify must sign up at one of the tables in the entrance hall outside each hearing room. You should only testify in one committee hearing room.
4. Pursuant to the Legislature's Joint Rules, the Chairs will limit testimony to 3 minutes per person for the orderly conduct of the hearing and to allow all who wish to testify the opportunity to speak.
5. Committee members are particularly interested in hearing about what ideas would work in your community, and what administrative structures to deliver education are important to you.
6. Please do not repeat testimony that has already been presented.
7. Spokespersons for large groups are encouraged.
8. If you have written testimony, please present it to the Committee Clerk before you speak.
9. American Sign Language Interpreter Services will be available in the Capital/Pine Tree Room from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
10. If you are unable to testify, you may submit your comments on forms provided in the entrance hall and online at the Legislature's website at: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND COOPERATION!!!

SCHOOL DISTRICT REGIONALIZATION BILLS
AFA / EDU PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

February 5, 2007 @ Augusta Civic Center

7:30 a.m.	Staff arrive for set-up
7:30 a.m.	Legislators arrive for hearings
9:00am - 9:30am	Public Hearing Convenes (Capital & Pine Tree Rooms, 2 nd Floor, North Wing) Welcome, Introductions, Review of Ground Rules
9:30am – 10:15am	Legislative Sponsors present bills (5 minutes each for sponsors)
10:15am - 10:30am	AFA/EDU “Split Committees” (one “panel” goes downstairs to the Fort Western/Howard Rooms and the other “panel” remains upstairs in the Capital/Pine Tree Rooms)
10:30am	Public Testimony (3 minutes per person) (invite Legislators to comment) (invite public members need ASL Interpreter Services ¹)
[11:30pm - 2:00pm	Lunch Catered for Committee Members & Staff (Washington Room, 2 nd Floor North Wing)]
11:30am	Public Testimony (3 minutes per person)
[5:00pm - 6:30pm	Dinner Catered for Committee Members & Staff (Washington Room, 2 nd Floor North Wing)]
5:00pm	Public Testimony (3 minutes per person)
8:00pm	Public Hearing Adjourns

¹ ASL Interpreter Services will be available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Fort Western/Howard Rooms

**Comparison of School District Regionalization Plans: Governor's LD 499, Part MM Initiative,
Education Committee's "Majority Report" and Education Committee's "Minority Report"**

Key Elements of Plans	LD 499, Part MM Governor's Plan	Education Committee "Majority Report" Plan	Education Committee "Minority Report" Plan
Number of Consolidated School Administrative Units ("SAU")	Mandates reduction to 26 Regional Learning Communities (RLC) based on current Career & Technical Education ("CTE") regions	If voters ratify consolidation plan for each SAU with less than 1,200 students, would result in 105 SAUs	Divide the state into no more than 80 SAUs that are reasonably contiguous and compact
Number of Students in Consolidated SAU	26 RLC configuration would result in a range of 1,800 - 20,000 students per RLC	SAUs with less than 1,200 students must prepare a consolidation plan for 1,200+ students in SAU	Consolidation plan to yield an average SAU size of 2,500 + students
Planning Structure	Dept. of Education ("DOE") to provide facilitation and consultants to assist SAUs within 26 RLCs to reorganize governance and administrative structures ▪ \$1.7m in FY08 & \$1.7m in FY09 for technical assistance to RLC	Deliberative process that permits SAUs to choose partners for collaboration and consolidation based on "regional planning alliance" model in 26 CTE regions ▪ SAUs, municipalities and the general public appointed to serve on regional planning alliances) ▪ Use "regional planning alliance" concept with tasks, benchmarks and reporting deadlines ▪ Beginning in FY10, (and after FY09 planning), consolidation plans are required for school units with less than 1200 pupils (there are currently 236 school units with less than 1,200 pupils as reported Oct 2006) ▪ Exceptions shall be available for some school units (e.g., school units that are geographically isolated as determined by DOE review)	State Board of Education ("SBE") consults with state and local stakeholders to develop promptly a series of one or more alternative consolidation plans for review by SAUs ▪ Any group of SAUs may petition the SBE to request an alternative consolidation alignment ▪ Consolidation plans to include the organized portions of Maine and shall be designed to produce on a statewide basis results that will: (a) include all municipalities within consolidated SAUs; (b) provide that each new SAU shall have a single governing board and contain at least one secondary school; (c) include whole existing SAUs wherever practicable; and (d) merge adjoining and nearby SAUs that are presently separated because of disparate fiscal capacities

Planning Timeframe for Collaboration / Consolidation	May 2007 - June 2008 period for transition from current SAU configuration to consolidated RLC for 2008-09 school year	July 2007 – June 2009 period for process to permit SAUs to choose partners for collaboration beginning in 2007-08 school year and consolidation beginning in 2009-10 school year, except for accelerated consolidation for those who are ready in 2008-09 school year	July 2007 - June 2008 period for SBE to consult and develop consolidation plans for SAU review and for voter ratification by SAU
Implementation Timeframe for SAU Consolidation	26 RLCs in place by July 1, 2008 for 2008-09 school year	Most consolidated SAUs in place by July 1, 2009 for 2009-10 school year; some may be in place by July 1, 2008 for 2008-09 school year	Consolidated SAUs in place by July 1, 2008 for 2008-09 school year
Implications for SAU Governance	▪ Each RLC to be governed by a single school board with 5 to 15 members ▪ RLC school board elections in Nov 2007	▪ Beginning in FY10, (and after FY09 planning), consolidation plans are required for school units with less than 1200 pupils (there are currently 236 school units with less than 1,200 pupils as reported Oct 2006) ▪ Exceptions shall be available for some school units (e.g., school units that are geographically isolated as determined by DOE review) ▪ Voters in SAUs will have local vote to determine whether consolidation plan prepared by the regional planning alliances shall be adopted or not	Voters in SAUs will have local vote to determine whether to consolidate according to consolidation plan approved by SBE

Incentives and Resources for Design or Implementation	• DOE to provide facilitation and consulting services • Provides \$3.98m in FY09 funding for FTE principal for every school	Incentives for consolidation may include, but are not limited to, school construction advantages, state subsidy as available, and other incentives as identified ▪ Education Committee will explore other incentives for consolidation, including reduced mill rate (for a limited number of years) and other possibilities ▪ Provides \$1.7m in FY08 & \$1.7m in FY09 for a state-funded, full-time staff person for each planning alliance	Consolidated SAUs entitled to \$9.76m incentive funds set aside within GPA in a non-lapsing fund: ▪ Grants. A SBE grant of up to \$200 per pupil to defray costs of consolidation ▪ Mill rates. A reduction of one-half mill in the full-value mill rate as applied to the new SAU for three consecutive fiscal years following consolidation ▪ School Construction. Added weight within the SBE's grading system for approving school construction funds Sources for the Incentive Fund: ▪ From EPS special education adjustment to minimum subsidy receivers. It reduces special education adjustment to 80% in FY08 and FY09 for 80 minimum receiver SAUs and transfers. \$3.5m savings to the Consolidation Incentive Fund ▪ From Transition Adjustment Funds. It reassigns within GPA the transition adjustment funds in FY 08 (\$3.26m) to the Consolidation Incentive Fund. ▪ From Professional Development Funds. The Commissioner's budget contains \$3.5m to pay for assisting Maine's 290 school units to reform into 26 districts. This plan moves \$3m of these funds into the Consolidation Incentive Fund within GPA and leaves the remaining \$552,000 to fund consolidation work by DOE & SBE throughout the state
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Estimated Cost Savings	▪ \$36,518,661 in FY09 (state share) ▪ \$241,145,025 in FY09-FY11 (state share = \$132,629,764 and local share = \$108,515,261) through 10% reduction in administration, 5% reduction in transportation and 5% reduction in special education ▪ EPS allocation for system administration is proposed to be \$184 per-pupil in FY08 and \$204 per-pupil in FY09 for new RLCs with more than 2,500 students and \$204 per-pupil in FY08 and \$272 per-pupil for new RLCs with 2,500 students or less	▪ \$36,518,661 in FY09 (state share) by establishing an adjustment in GPA program in through reduction in non-instructional costs by at least 10% statewide and any savings that were achieved through collaboration and consolidation initiatives ▪ Reallocate the \$3.98m in GPA funds in FY09 (that the Governor proposed to provide state funding for school principals in regional school districts) to establish a “non-lapsing” incentive fund for collaboration and consolidation ▪ Beginning in FY10, relevant cost components in the EPS funding formula will be modified to reflect administrative and non-instructional costs of efficient, high-performing school units (e.g., reduce per-pupil system administration rates from current \$348 per-pupil amount to a lower per-pupil rate more in line with costs associated with 105 new SAUs as compared to existing 290 SAUs administered by 152 central office administrators and the related school boards that govern the 290 SAUs)	Achieve \$36,518,661 in FY09 by: ▪ Eliminating additional funding for school principals, which saves about \$4m (for a sub-total = \$32.5m) ▪ Moving \$3m from the DOE budget into the Incentive Fund4m (for a sub-total = \$29.5m) ▪ The school budget “ballot transparency” initiative will save significant dollars at the state and local level; and complies with the Governor’s objective to translate new state funding into property tax relief ▪ The consolidations produced by the incentive plan should save the rest ▪ If DOE and OFPR say that these savings are insufficient to substitute fully for the \$36.5m deducted from GPA in the Governor’s budget, then the difference is made up by scaling back GPA for FY08 while still allocating the full 55% state share in FY09
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School Budget Approval Process	LD 499 proposes that RLC school budgets be prepared using a “cost center” summary budget format; and that RLC budgets be approved at a RLC budget meeting and validated by voters at a RLC referendum	Achieve “transparency in budgeting” by having each SAU governing board align its proposed budget to a common format containing the major “line items” of EPS funding formula in the budget warrant prepared for local voters	Plan requires SAUs to align budgets to a common format containing about ten major EPS line items. Budgets approved for FY 09 and thereafter must be presented to voters in a format that discloses on the ballot how the district’s spending compares with EPS in each category. It further requires that voters be given the same financial information from a high performing school district of comparable size and demographics
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SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION LEGISLATION

State Policy for Effective and Efficient School Units

The law sets forth **state policy** to ensure that schools be organized as units in order to provide equitable **educational opportunities, rigorous academic programs, uniformity** in delivering programs, a greater uniformity in **tax rates**, more **efficient** and effective use of limited resources, preservation of **school choice** and maximum opportunity to deliver services in an efficient manner.

All school units, of whatever form and whatever size, -- SADs, CSDs and municipal school units -- small and large -- must:

- (1) Work with other units to reorganize into larger, more efficient units; or
- (2) Where expansion of the unit would be impractical or inconsistent with state policy, reorganize their own administrative structures to reduce costs.

Process

To **begin the process** of forming new units, the Commissioner will convene meetings in the 26 Career and Technical Education regions to provide information, assistance and suggested alignments of school units. The Commissioner can suggest alignment of units, but local units aren't required to follow those suggestions and will ultimately pick their own partners.

Department of Education will provide **facilitators** to help local planning efforts, funding for the January 2008 election and funds to help units with the **costs of transition** to a regional unit.

School Unit Size and Number

Existing school units should aim to form regional school units of **at least 2,500** resident students, except where geography, demographics, population density, transportation challenges and other obstacles make 2,500 impractical. Where 2,500 is impractical, the units must aim to create units of **at least 1,200 students**. Offshore islands and tribal schools are not subject to a minimum size requirement.

Legislative intent of the law is to create a maximum of **80 school units**.

Reorganization and Cost Reduction Plans

All plans -- whether they propose consolidation or not -- must show how the unit will, for FY2009 (starting July 1, 2008):

- (1) **Reduce system administration costs** to state-determined EPS levels; and
- (2) **Reduce transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance** expenditures by 5%.

All reorganization plans are **subject to voter approval**. The Department of Education will fund an election in **January of 2008**. The referendum will clearly state the **penalties** that will apply if voters disapprove of the reorganization plan.

-- OVER --

Financial Impact; Penalties

General Purpose Aid for Education will be reduced by **\$36.5 million** in FY2009. All units will have a reduced allocation for system administration, transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance.

Units that vote against reorganization will face additional financial impact in the form of penalties, starting on July 1, 2009. **Penalties** for units that don't form appropriate regional units by the beginning of FY 2010 include:

1. Loss of minimum subsidy (including the 5% minimum and the special education minimum);
2. Loss of all funds for system administration;
3. A 5% increase in the mill rate required to be raised by that unit;
4. Less favorable consideration in approval and funding for school construction; and
5. Loss of eligibility for isolated school adjustments and transition adjustments.

A unit that votes against reorganization in one referendum can develop another reorganization plan and hold another referendum. The unit can **avoid penalties** if it approves reorganization by referendum not later than the November 2008 election and is operational within a regional unit by July 1, 2009.

Schools and School Choice

Reorganization plans **won't close schools** or displace teachers and students. Local schools can't be closed unless the regional board votes by a **2/3rds vote** AND the municipality where the school is located votes to approve the closure. If the municipality votes not to close the school that the regional board votes to close, the municipality is responsible for only the added cost of keeping the school open, not the entire cost. (same as current SAD law)

Every regional school unit must have a **publicly-supported high school**. Students who have school choice right now will continue to have **school choice** after reorganization, even if they join a regional unit that has its own high school.

Teachers and Other School Employees

Teachers and other school employees will be transferred to the new unit, and will retain their rights under collective bargaining contracts. Contracts will continue until their planned expiration dates and there will be an orderly process for continuing collective bargaining.

School Governance; Budget Transparency

Regional school units will be governed by a regional school board; representation on the Board is determined by the local communities as part of the reorganization planning process. Regional boards may create **local school committees** with locally determined powers and duties.

All school units will provide **budget transparency** by using a uniform budget format and a budget validation referendum.

Other Provisions

Regional collaboration is facilitated by statutory authorization.

The Department of Education will review and critique all **unfunded state mandates** pertaining to school systems and report to the Legislature's Education Committee by December 15, 2008.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 PART A

3 Sec. A-1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§20-A is enacted to read:

4 20-A. Previous education unit. "Previous education unit" means a state-approved
5 unit of school administration that was responsible for operating or constructing public
6 schools prior to the reorganization of school administrative units pursuant to chapter 103-
7 A.

8 Sec. A-2. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§23-B is enacted to read:

9 23-B. Publicly supported secondary school. "Publicly supported secondary
10 school" means:

11 A. A public secondary school; or

12 B. A private secondary school approved for the receipt of public funds under chapter
13 117, subchapter 2 that enrolls 60% or more publicly funded students.

14 Sec. A-3. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§24-B is enacted to read:

15 24-B. Regional school unit. "Regional school unit" means the state-approved unit
16 of school administration as established pursuant to chapter 103¹A.

17 Sec. A-4. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§24-C is enacted to read:

18 24-C. Regional school unit board. "Regional school unit board" means the board of
19 directors that is the governing body with statutory powers and duties of a regional school
20 unit.

21 Sec. A-5. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§26, as corrected by RR 1993, c. 1, §44 and
22 amended by PL 2003, c. 545, §5, is further amended to read:

23 26. School administrative unit. "School administrative unit" means the state-
24 approved unit of school administration and includes a municipal school unit, school
25 administrative district, community school district, regional school unit or any other
26 municipal or quasi-municipal corporation responsible for operating or constructing public
27 schools, except that it does not include a career and technical education region.
28 Beginning July 1, 2009, "school administrative unit" means the state-approved unit of
29 school administration and includes only a municipal school unit and a regional school
30 unit formed pursuant to chapter 103-A.

31 Sec. A-6. 20-A MRSA §1201, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is
32 repealed.

33 Sec. A-7. 20-A MRSA §1202, as amended by PL 1993, c. 608, §1, is repealed.

1 Sec. A-8. 20-A MRSA §1203, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is
2 repealed.

3 Sec. A-9. 20-A MRSA §1204, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is
4 repealed.

5 Sec. A-10. 20-A MRSA §1205, as amended by PL 2001, c. 588, §18, is repealed.

6 Sec. A-11. 20-A MRSA §1305-C is enacted to read:

7 **§1305-C. Mandatory budget validation and cost center summary budget form**

8 Notwithstanding any other law, school administrative district budgets developed after
9 January 1, 2008 must conform to the format and referendum procedures set forth in
10 sections 1305-A and 1305-B.

11 Sec. A-12. 20-A MRSA c. 103, sub-c. 6, as amended, is repealed.

12 Sec. A-13. 20-A MRSA c. 103-A is enacted to read:

13 **CHAPTER 103-A**

14 **REGIONAL SCHOOL UNITS**

15 **SUBCHAPTER 1**

16 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

17 **§1451. Regional school units**

18 It is declared the policy of the State to provide sufficient resources to support the
19 reorganization of school administrative units into regional, state-approved units of school
20 administration to provide.

21 **1. Opportunity.** Equitable educational opportunity for all students to demonstrate
22 achievement of the content standards of the State's system of learning results established
23 in section 6209;

24 **2. Programs.** Rigorous academic programs that meet the requirements of the system
25 of learning results established in section 6209 and that prepare students for college,
26 careers and citizenship;

27 **3. Delivery.** Uniformity in the delivery of academic programs that meet the
28 requirements of the system of learning results established in section 6209;

29 **4. Tax rates.** A greater uniformity of tax rates for the support of schools;

30 **5. Sustainability.** The efficient use of limited resources in order to achieve long-
31 term sustainability and predictability in the support of public schools;

1 6. Public funds. Effective use of the public funds expended for the support of
2 public schools by means of:

3 A. The creation of cost-efficient organizational structures; and

4 B. Administrative structures and efficiencies that permit the organized and regular
5 delivery of uniform state-sponsored professional development programs to promote
6 coherence and consistency in the understanding and application of the State's
7 standards-based system for continuous improvement in student achievement;

8 7. School choice. The preservation of opportunities for choice of schools; and

9 8. Services. The maximization of opportunities to deliver services that can more
10 effectively be provided in larger districts than from within smaller units or individual
11 schools.

12 Regional school units shall provide kindergarten to grade 12 public education, in
13 accordance with this Title, and shall develop and implement policies that address
14 efficiencies in administration, educational programming and the sharing of community
15 resources for the continuous improvement of student achievement and the preparation of
16 students for college, careers and citizenship.

17 §1452. Application of general law

18 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, schools operated by the
19 regional school units established in accordance with this chapter are the official schools
20 of the participating municipalities. The provisions of general law relating to public
21 education apply to these schools. State funds for public schools must be paid directly to
22 the treasurer of a regional school unit.

23 §1453. Status of regional school unit

24 For purposes of the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 8, Subsection 3, a
25 regional school unit is a school administrative district.

26 §1454. Rules

27 The state board may adopt rules to carry out this chapter. Rules adopted under this
28 section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

29 SUBCHAPTER 2

30 ORGANIZATION

31 §1461.

32 [SEE DRAFT ATTACHMENT]

33 SUBCHAPTER 3

1 SCHOOL GOVERNANCE; PROGRAM

2 §1471. Regional school unit board

3 A regional school unit board must be established in accordance with this section.

4 1. Size. Following the initial certification of a regional school unit, any change in
5 the size, composition or apportionment of the regional school unit board must be
6 determined by a joint meeting of all the municipalities within the regional school unit.
7 Unless determined otherwise pursuant to section 1472, each regional school unit board
8 must include at least one director from each municipality or subdistrict.

9 2. Term of office. In municipalities with annual elections, directors serve 3-year
10 terms. In municipalities with biennial elections, directors serve 4-year terms. A director
11 serves until a successor is elected and qualified.

12 3. Compensation. Compensation for attendance at a regional school unit board
13 meeting must be between \$10 and \$25 per meeting for each director. Whenever the
14 directors recommend increasing their compensation, they shall submit their
15 recommendation to the voters in the regional school unit for approval.

16 A. On notification by the regional school unit board, the municipal officers shall, at
17 the next regular or special town meeting or city election, prepare a warrant or ballot
18 for the purpose of voting on the proposed increase. The question must be in the
19 following form.

20 "Do you favor paying a member of the regional school unit board of directors
21 compensation at the rate of \$... for each meeting that member attends?"

22 B. An increase in compensation is not effective unless approved by a majority of the
23 voters voting on the question set out in paragraph A.

24 4. Secretary and treasurer. The superintendent serves as secretary and treasurer of
25 the regional school unit board and shall give a bond to the regional school unit board of a
26 sum and with the sureties as the regional school unit determines. The bond must be
27 deposited with the chair of the regional school unit board. The expense of that bond must
28 be paid by the regional school unit. The bond premium, compensation paid directors for
29 attendance at meetings and expenses of the regional school unit must be paid from funds
30 of the regional school unit by the treasurer on vouchers presented and certified by the
31 superintendent and approved by a majority of the regional school unit board or a finance
32 committee duly elected annually by that board.

33 5. Oath of office. Before a newly elected director's first regional school unit board
34 meeting, that director must take the following oath or affirmation before a dedimus
35 justice or notary public.

36 "I do swear that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my abilities the duties
37 incumbent on me as a regional school unit board director of (name of regional school
38 unit) according to the Constitution of Maine and laws of this State, so help me God."

1 A. A director shall take the oath or affirmation and return a certificate documenting
2 that the oath or affirmation has been taken to the secretary of the regional school unit
3 to place in the regional school unit board records.

4 B. If a director is conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, the word "affirm"
5 may be used instead of "swear" and the words "this I do under the pains and penalty
6 of perjury" may be used instead of the words "so help me God."

7 6. Election of officers. The regional school unit board shall elect a chair and vice-
8 chair and other officers as may be necessary.

9 **§1472. Methods of apportionment**

10 **1. Method A: subdistrict representation.** Under the method of representation
11 referred to as "Method A," directors represent subdistricts.

12 A. The subdistricts, as far as practicable, must be whole municipalities. If the
13 municipalities are divided into subdistricts, then they must be divided into
14 subdistricts of approximately equal size as determined by the latest Federal Decennial
15 Census or Federal Estimated Census. The municipal officers shall provide a separate
16 voting place for each subdistrict of the municipality.

17 B. The boundaries of each subdistrict must be determined by a majority vote of the
18 reapportionment committee under section 1475. Each subdistrict must have one
19 director, except that in a municipality composed of 2 or more subdistricts, the joint
20 meeting may authorize the election of directors-at-large.

21 **2. Method B: weighted votes.** Under the method of representation referred to as
22 "Method B," directors cast weighted votes.

23 A. The reapportionment committee under section 1475 shall apportion 1,000 votes
24 among all the members of the board. The ratio of the number of votes cast by the
25 directors representing a municipality in relation to the number 1,000 must be the
26 same ratio to the nearest whole number as the population of the municipality is in
27 relation to the population of all municipalities in the regional school unit, as
28 determined by the latest Federal Decennial Census or Federal Estimated Census.

29 B. To ensure the use of whole numbers, the 1,000 votes apportioned among the
30 board members may not be increased or decreased by more than 5 votes.

31 C. A plan may not permit the voting power of any director to exceed by more than
32 2% the percentage of voting power the director would have if all 1,000 votes were
33 apportioned equally among the directors.

34 D. In a municipality served by 2 or more directors, the votes cast by them must be
35 divided equally among them. The directors are elected at large within the
36 municipality unless otherwise provided by municipal charter.

37 **3. Method C: at-large voting.** Under the method of representation referred to as
38 "Method C," directors are elected at large by all of the voters in the regional school unit.

1 4. Method D: other. Under the method of representation referred to as "Method
2 D," directors are elected by any method other than those set forth in subsections 1, 2 and
3 3 that meets the requirements of the one-person, one-vote principle.

4 §1473. Election

5 For the purpose of nominations, regional school unit board directors are considered
6 municipal officials and must be nominated in accordance with Title 30-A, chapter 121 or
7 with a municipal charter, whichever is applicable.

8 1. Initial meeting on regional school unit formation. On the election of the
9 regional school unit board of directors, the clerk of each municipality within the regional
10 school unit shall forward the names and addresses of the directors elected for that
11 municipality to the state board with other data with regard to their election as the state
12 board may require. On receipt of the names and addresses of all of the directors, the state
13 board shall set a time, place and date for the first meeting of the directors and give notice
14 to the directors in writing, sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to
15 the addresses provided by the municipalities.

16 2. Special provisions. In the election for representation under the methods provided
17 under section 1472, the provisions of this subsection apply.

18 A. In an election under Method A pursuant to section 1472, subsection 1:

19 (1) Within 60 days, but no earlier than 45 days after notification by the regional
20 school unit board of the approval of the reapportionment plan under section 1475,
21 the municipal officers shall call a special election to elect directors to serve under
22 the plan for the regional school unit;

23 (2) Nomination papers must be furnished by the secretary of the regional school
24 unit at least 10 days before the deadline for filing nomination papers.
25 Notwithstanding any other section of this Title, directors must be nominated by
26 obtaining a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 50 signatures of registered voters
27 residing within a subdistrict. The secretary shall notify the municipal officers of
28 the names of candidates in each subdistrict;

29 (3) The ballots must be prepared in accordance with subparagraph (7);

30 (4) The clerks of each municipality shall forward to the secretary of the regional
31 school unit the results of the vote by subdistrict;

32 (5) The regional school unit board shall meet and total the votes cast for each
33 candidate within each subdistrict and shall immediately notify the clerks in each
34 municipality, the candidates and the commissioner of the results of the vote;

35 (6) The terms of the directors elected under the original municipal representation
36 system cease on the date that the newly elected directors are sworn into office;
37 and

38 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of statute, directors must be elected by
39 secret ballot. The ballots must be prepared for and distributed to the
40 municipalities or subdistricts by the secretary of the regional school unit.