

Timeline

Phase 1 – Accelerated Mergers: All districts within an existing SU merge into a Unified Union School District that is its own SD

- approval by electorate: July 1, 2016
- operational: July 1, 2017

Phase 2 – Regional Education Districts and Their Variations (Side-by-Side Mergers; Layered Mergers; MUUSDs) – all of which are potential “alternative structures”

- approval by electorate: July 1, 2017
- operational: July 1, 2019

Phase 3 – Conventional (later) Mergers: Unified Union School District that is its own SD

- approval by electorate: no deadline
- operational: on or before July 1, 2019

Proposals by Nonmerging Districts

- November 30, 2017 – self-evaluation, conversations, and proposals from districts that had a failed vote or otherwise won't have merged or be a preferred structure by July 1, 2019

Secretary's Proposal

- June 1, 2018 – Secretary creates *proposal* for governance changes to the extent necessary, possible, and practicable

State Board of Education's Final Statewide Plan

- November 30, 2018 – State Board of Education issues a *final plan requiring* governance changes to the extent necessary, possible, and practicable

Other Dates in Act 46

July 1, 2016 – Fiscal Year 2017:

- 3.5% calculation – “tail” removed (or transition year #1) – applies in FY17

July 1, 2017 – Fiscal Year 2018:

- 3.5% calculation – “tail” removed (transition year #2) – applies in FY18
- 5% Tax Increase – failure to follow law re: SU duties – FY18 is earliest it can apply

July 1, 2018 – Fiscal Year 2019:

- 3.5% calculation – “tail” removed (fully removed if transitioning) – applies FY19
- Small School Guidelines – State Board of Education publishes for annual determinations awarded in FY20 & after

July 1, 2019 – Fiscal Year 2020:

- New sustainable governance models become operational throughout the State
- Small Schools Grants –
 - unless paid in perpetuity as a Merger Incentive Grant (Phases 1-3 voluntary mergers)
 - available only upon annual determination that small school is EITHER:
 - geographically isolated from another school with capacity OR
 - academically excellent and operationally efficient
- Education Quality Standards (EQS) Consequences – clarification of the State Board of Education’s existing authority and new State Board of Education authority for districts that are not moving toward meeting EQS (Sec. 40)

July 1, 2020 – Fiscal Year 2021:

- 3.5% calculation – hold-harmless provision repealed except if voluntarily merged per Phases 1, 2, or 3 above (Secs. 24 and 25)

Note: This document is provided for guidance only and does not have the force of law. See the underlying cited acts for more detail.

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