

Act 153 Overview

When the legislature wrote Act 153 they were attempting to address the wide ranging educational systems we have in our state. They crafted a law to offer local communities the means and motivation to voluntarily consolidate as many school districts as possible into larger governing units known as Regional Educational Districts (REDs).

Background Act 153 – School District Voluntary Mergers

Supports:

- Increased educational opportunities for all students, including the effective use of technology to expand those opportunities
- Increased economies of scale
- Enhanced cost efficiencies

Provides:

- Incentives, technical assistance, and statutory changes to encourage voluntary merger of school districts

Process:

- Each supervisory union board shall discuss, and each local district board may discuss, whether it wishes to explore the merger of districts within the supervisory union by Dec. 1, 2010

STATUS

The boards of Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, and Williston, as well as the CSSU board, voted to form a Merger Planning committee.

Charge to Committee

- Conduct a more comprehensive analysis of potential merger – including financial and opportunity to learn impacts
- Report results to CSSU board and member districts at February and May CSSU meetings
- Report results to the commissioner of education and the voters of each member school district