



Maine School Superintendents Association

"Better Schools for Maine Students"

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MSSA Principles Concerning Collaboration, Regionalization and Consolidation

The Maine School Superintendents Association has adopted a position paper supporting appropriate initiatives for collaboration, regionalization and consolidation ("CRC") in the administration and delivery of educational services to Maine school children. The MSSA position is based on the following core principles:

1. **A Clear Goal.** The purpose of CRC initiatives should be to deliver educational services in a cost efficient manner while fostering educational excellence, educational equity and improved student achievement.
2. **Careful Planning.** CRC initiatives should be based on sound data and careful analysis, and thorough study with consideration of the impacts on students, taxpayers and local communities.
3. **An Inclusive Process.** The process for developing CRC initiatives at all levels should be broadly inclusive with participation by school officials, municipal officials, business and civic leaders, the Department of Education and others.
4. **Alignment of Governance and Services.** There should be a close alignment between school governance structures and the delivery of educational programs in order to maintain broad public support for public education in Maine.
5. **State's Supporting Role.** The State's role with respect to school CRC initiatives should be to provide support for planning efforts, to remove barriers to regional cooperation, to remove financial incentives for dissolving existing school units, and to create incentives for implementation of carefully planned CRC initiatives. The State should not take over the delivery of educational services in Maine or mandate the consolidation of school units without voter approval.
6. **Local Approval and Implementation.** CRC initiatives should be responsive to local conditions and approved and implemented at the local level.