

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 18, 2017

I. GOVERNANCE LAWS

II. STRUCTURES

III. POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

I. GOVERNANCE LAWS

A. PHASED APPROACH

2010 – 2019

1. Voluntary Mergers (incl Alt Structures)

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B. A BIT MORE DETAIL

#1 Voluntary Mergers

3 phases of tax rate reductions / transitional assistance:

Process = Union School District (1968 law)

Study Committee (bd reps; can include non-bd mbrs)

1. self-evaluation
2. discussions / analysis with other districts
3. proposal incl draft articles (legal contract)
4. SBE approval
5. voter approval – most by 7/1/16 or 7/1/17

#2 Sec. 9 Requirements

School Board:

1. Self evaluation – current ability to meet Goals
2. Meetings with other districts – regional focus
3. Proposal by 11/30/17 – individually/jointly

#3 Secretary's Proposal

11/30/17 – 6/1/18

proposes statewide plan by 6/1/18

- conversations with districts in #2
- considers proposals from #2

#4 SBE's Final Statewide Plan

6/1/18 – 11/30/18

Testimony

Revises and issues *final* Statewide Plan

“sustainable education structures”

designed to meet Goals

- necessary
- possible
- practicable

Secretary / SBE

Consider and evaluate all available data and analysis

- e.g.
 - Sec 9 proposal
 - original merger proposal
 - any related merger or Sec. 9 proposal
 - own analysis
 - etc.

C. SELF-EXAMINATION

(Merger or Sec. 9)

- Understanding where district/region is currently in relation to the 5 Goals
- Identifying strengths, weakness, trends, etc.
- Determining how best to address and support

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**and explain to the SBE what LOCAL COMMUNITIES
think is best**

D. “ALT STRUCTURE” RULES

(Act 46, Sec. 9)

Alt Structure Rules

Essential Elements Same Since Guidance Document issued July 2016:

- Self-Analysis/Regional Conversations/Proposal if not in merged structure
 - By November 30, 2018
- Secretary reviews proposals / has “conversations” w/ districts
 - While developing proposed statewide plan
 - November 30, 2017 – May 31, 2018
- State Board can accept testimony / request additional information
 - while preparing the final statewide plan
 - June 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018
- Expectation that districts performing the three tasks will rely on the same sort of data and conduct the same sort of analysis as a study committee that is proposing merger
 - listed in the rules
 - available through the Agency’s School Governance / Guidance webpage

Consultant / Legal Services Grants

(\$5K; \$10K; & \$20K)

Understanding Your District (Data Sets and Other Information)

II. STRUCTURES

A. OPERATING / TUITIONING

A school district provides for the education of its students in each grade either by

*** *operating a school* ***

OR

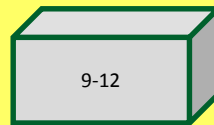
*** *paying tuition* ***

The voters decide between the two options

16 VSA § 821 & § 822

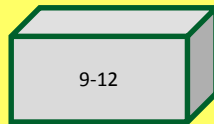
Town District X

PK-12 operating

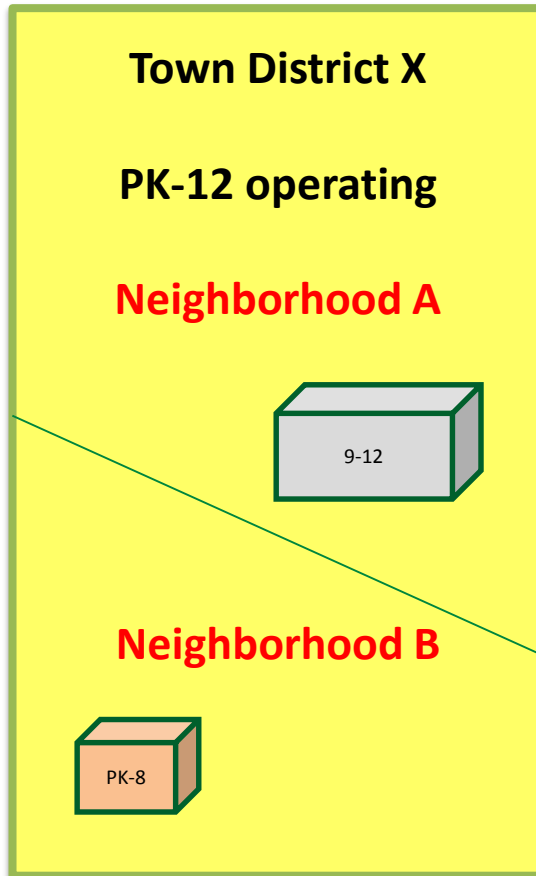


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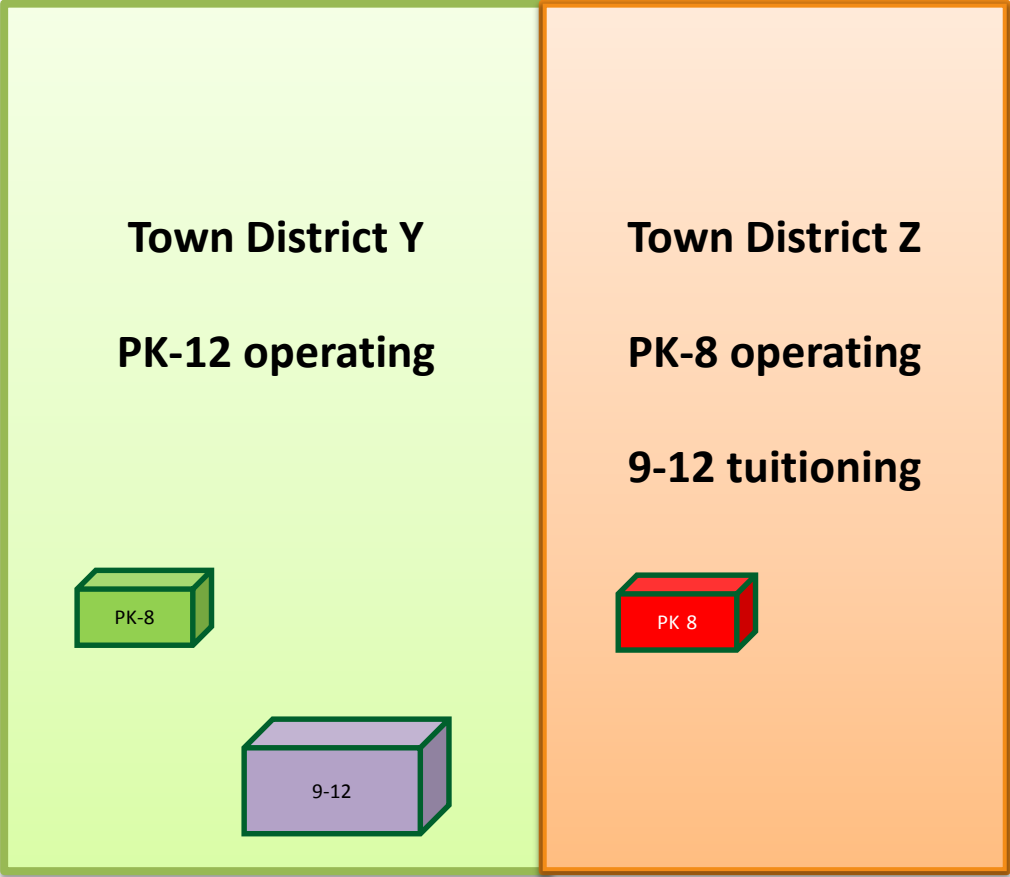


District X – **a single town** –
cannot choose two different
options for students in the
same grade

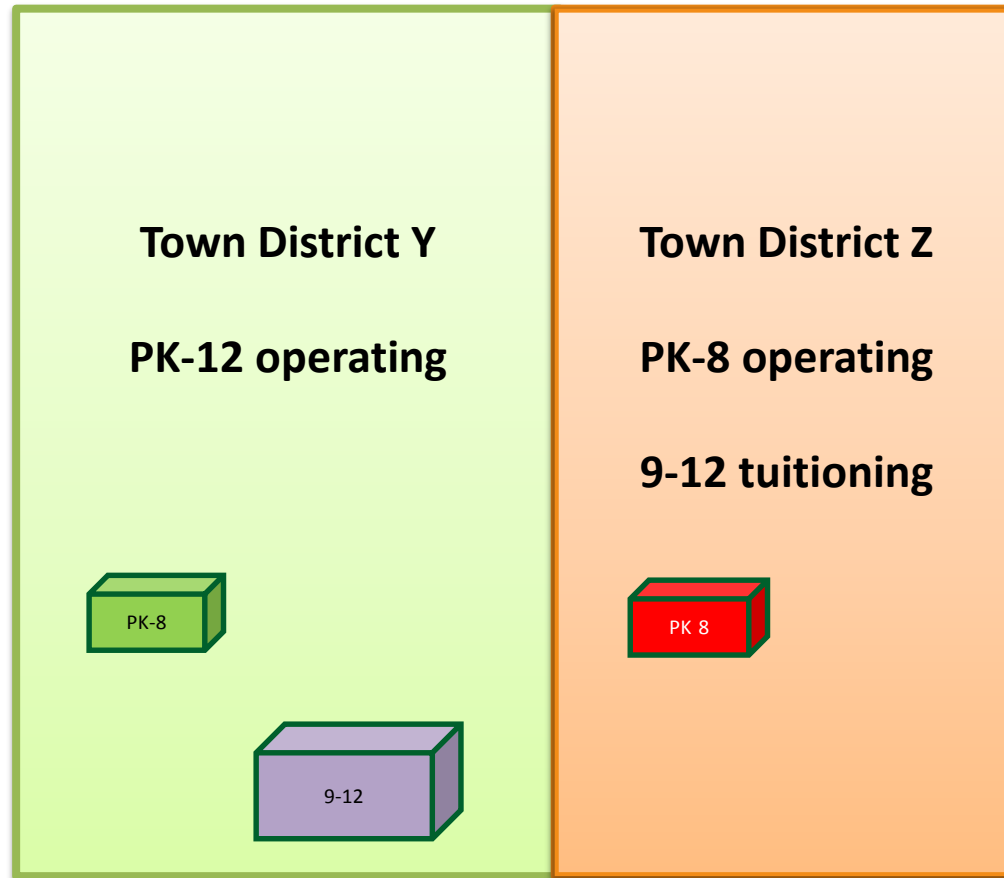


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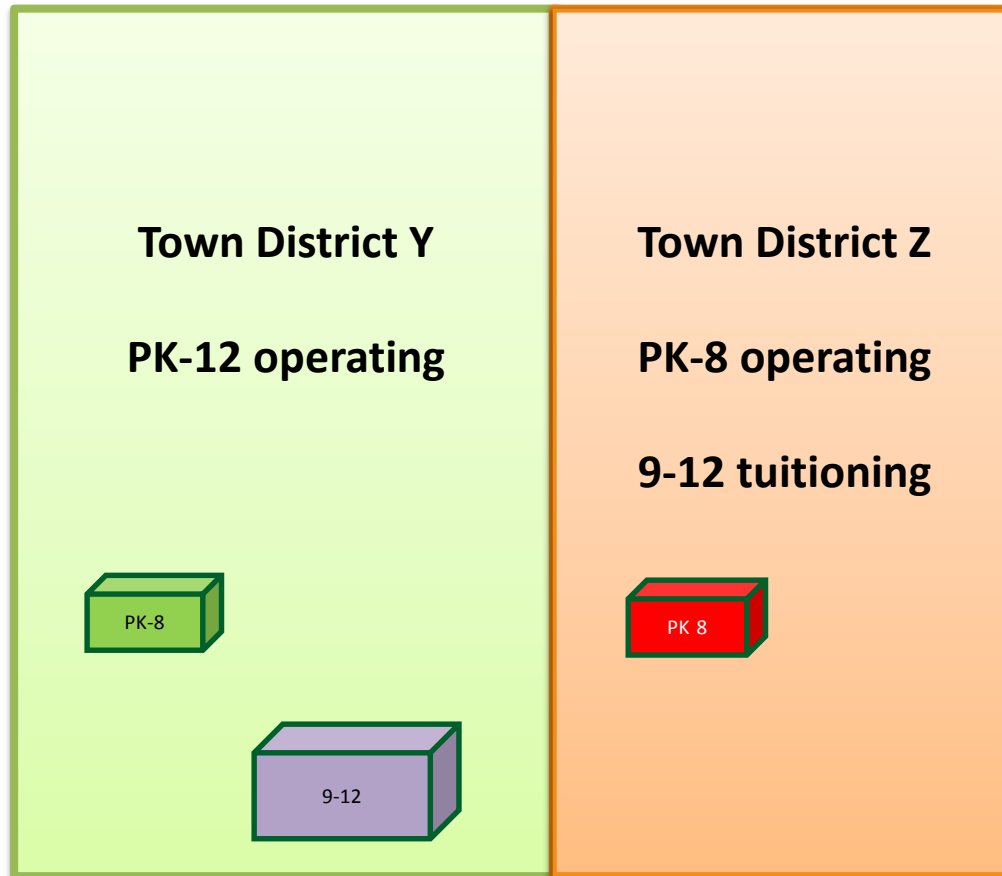
e.g., District X cannot require grade 9-12 students in Neighborhood A to attend the HS it operates, but pay the tuition for the grade 9-12 students in Neighborhood B to attend HS at the public/independent school of their choice



*If Y and Z
wish to
merge into
a single
district ...*

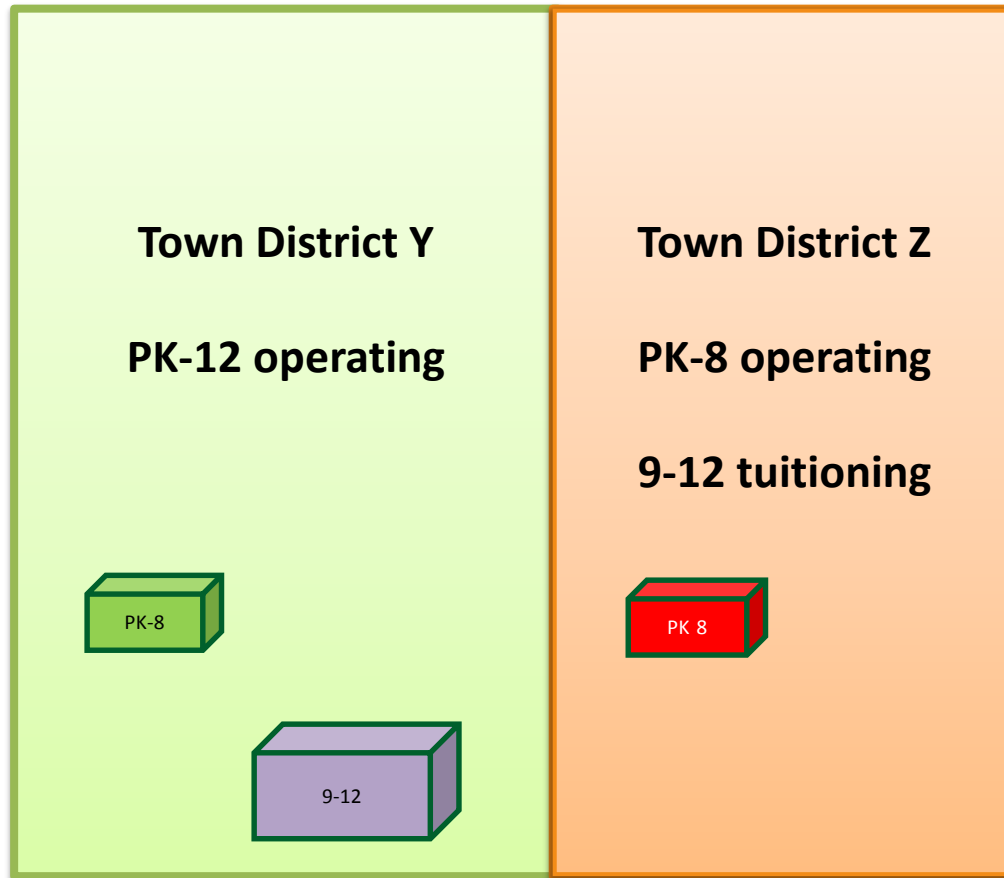


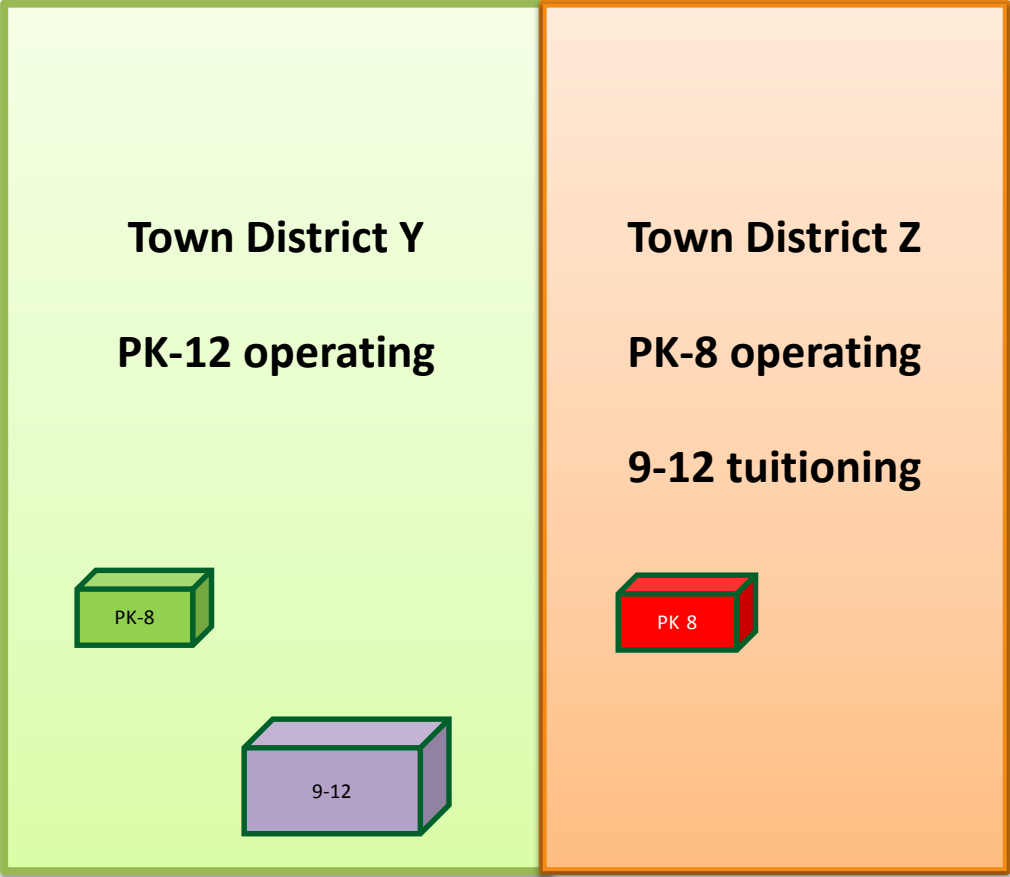
*then they
become a
SINGLE
LEGAL
ENTITY...*



*just like
Town
District X*

...

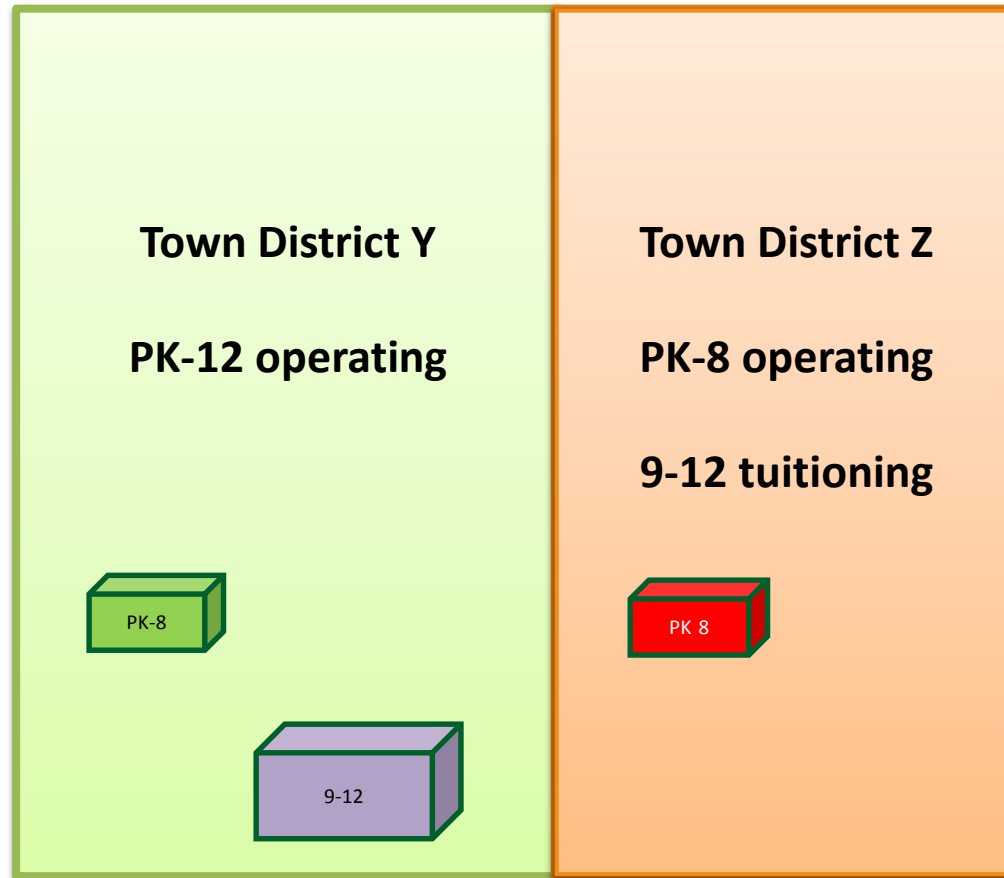




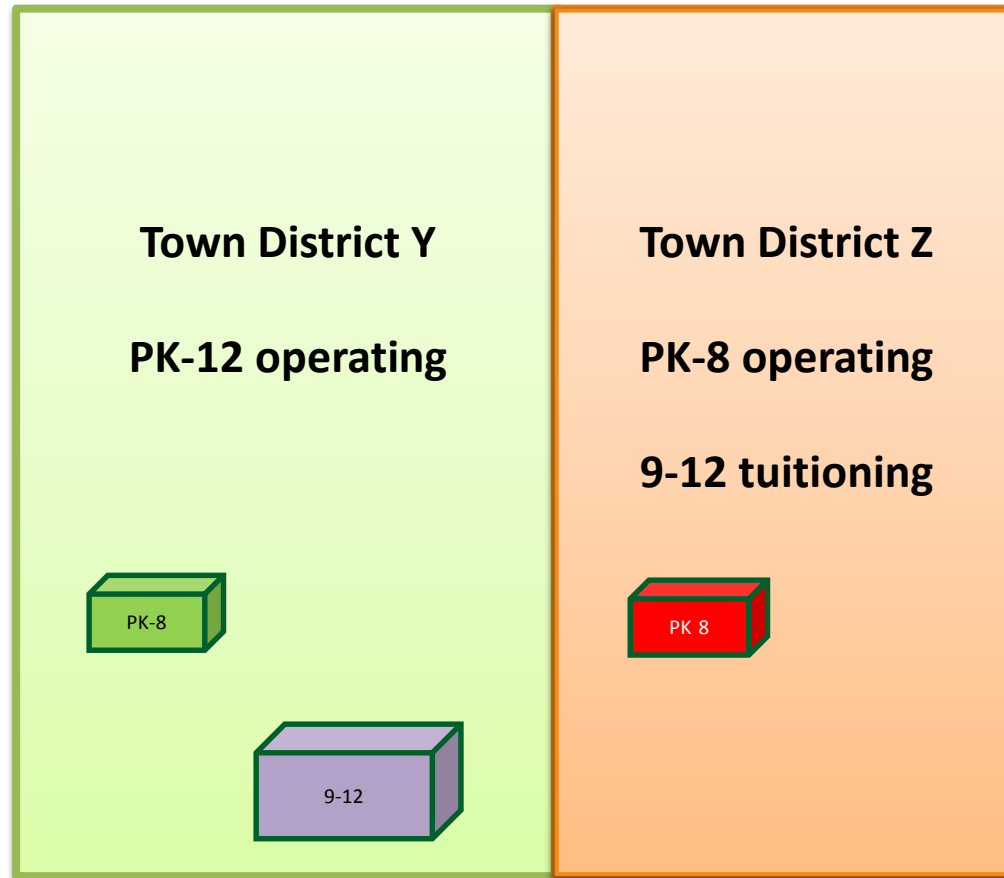
Even though the newly merged district would include two towns

Single Unified:

- *Budget*
- *Tax Rate*
- *Voters*
- *Taxpayers*
- *Students*

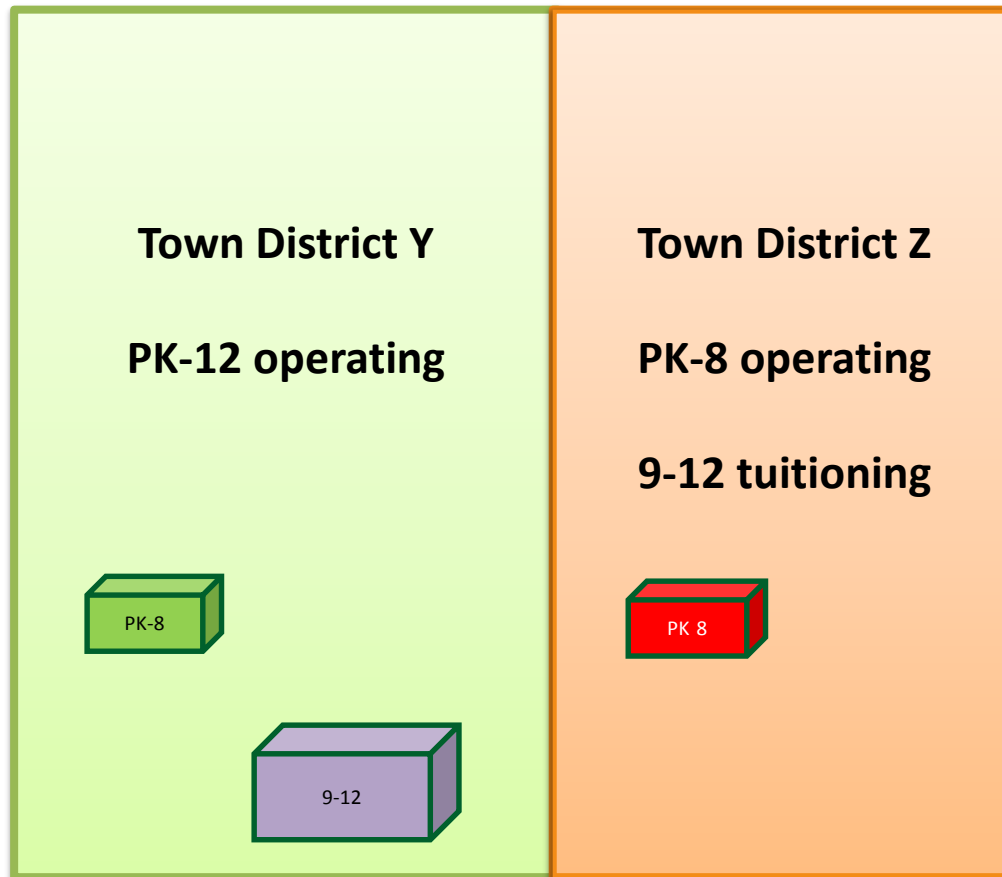


Think of the two towns as two neighborhoods –

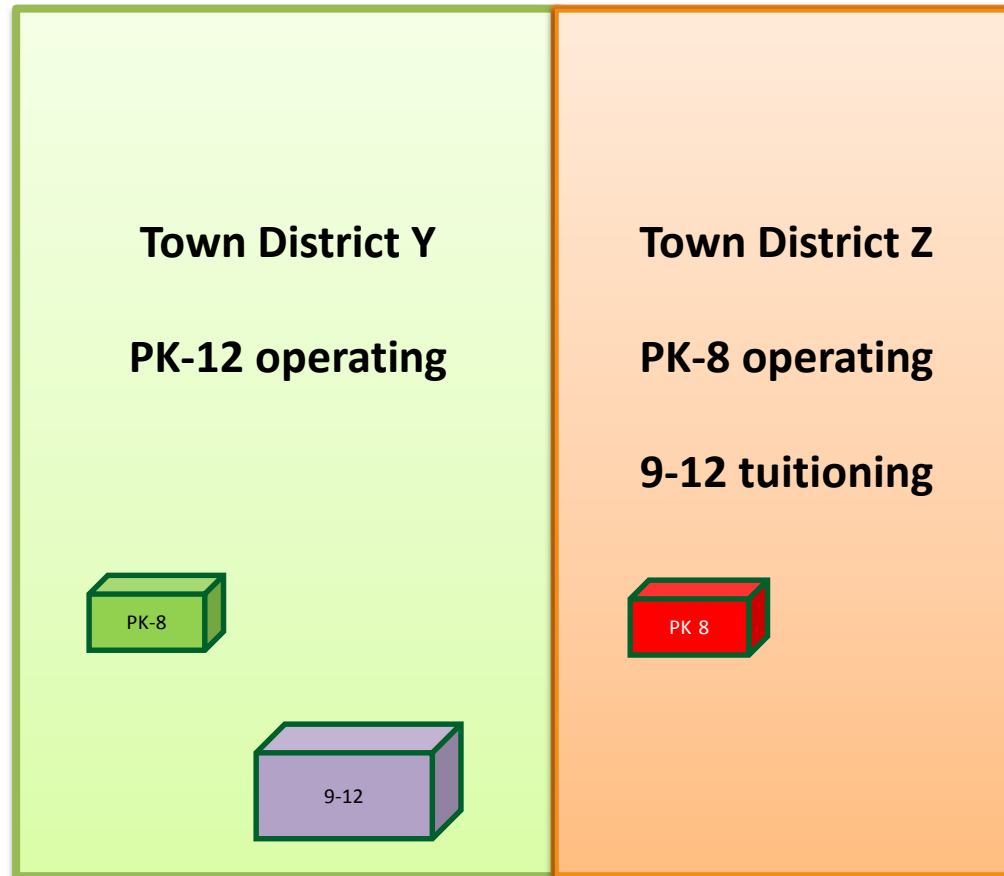


The students in the same grade must be educated in the same way ...

regardless of the "neighborhood" in which they live



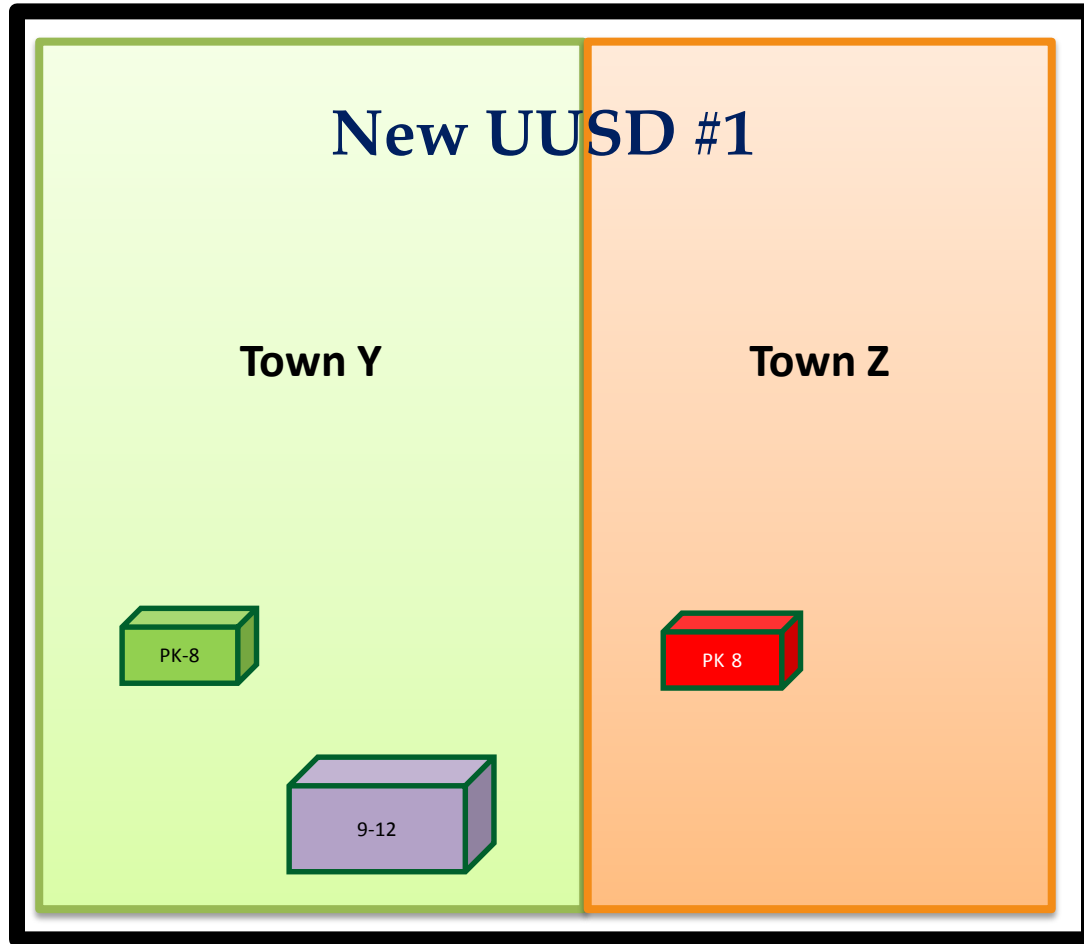
*So ...
if the voters in
both Town
District Y and
Town District Z
approve merger,
then the voters
must also agree ...*



EITHER
that

*ALL grade
9-12
students
will attend
the HS
located in
Town Y*

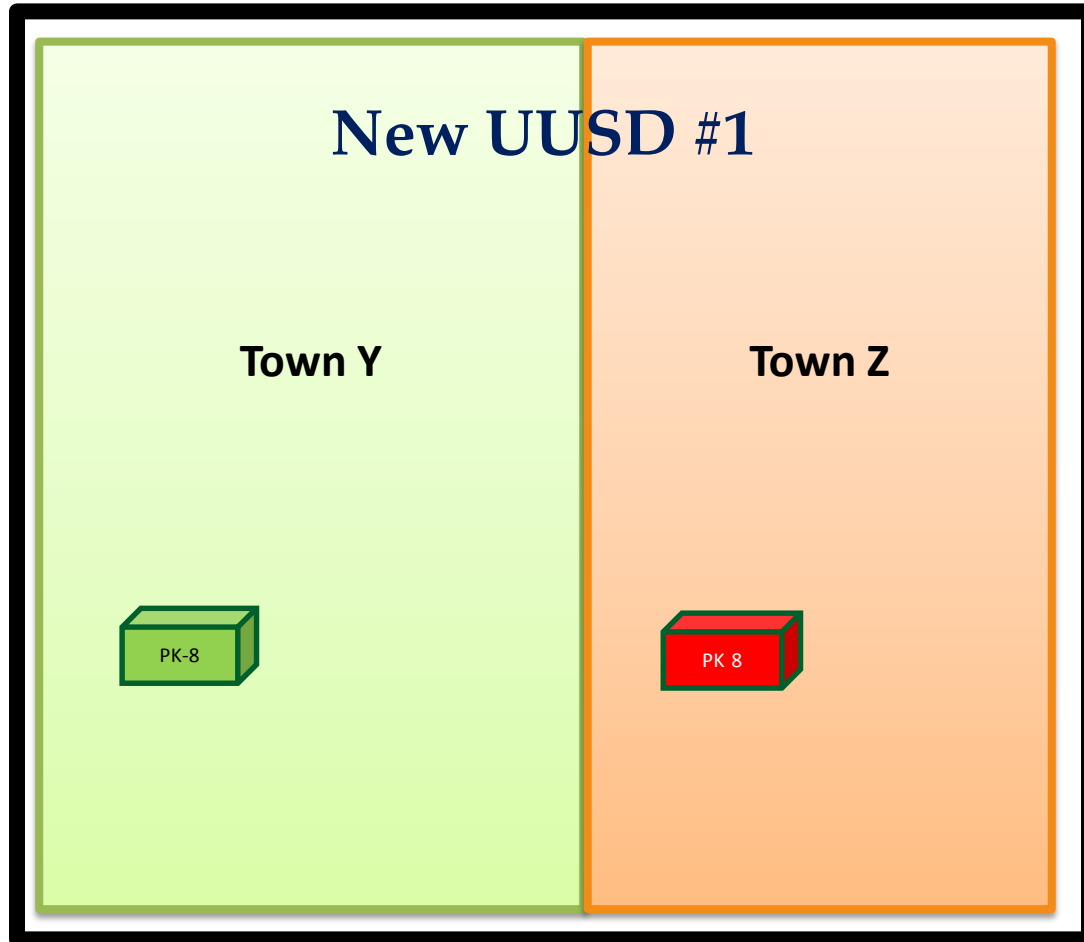
...



OR that

*The district
will not
operate a
high school*

*But will
instead pay
tuition for
ALL high
school
students*



Remember ...

- Only the voters can decide whether to change current operating / tuitioning structure
- State Board cannot merge two districts with different structures

B. LEAVING A UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

same process regardless of
whether

same process regardless of
whether
Union Elem/High School District
OR

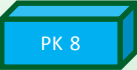
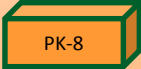
same process regardless of
whether
Union Elem/High School District
OR
(Modified) Unified Union School
District

Union High School District - E
(H.S. building in Town C)
(same process if for MUUSD)

9-12

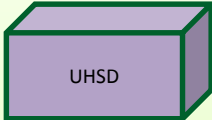
Town District A

PK-8




Town District B

PK-8




Town District C

PK-8



Town District D

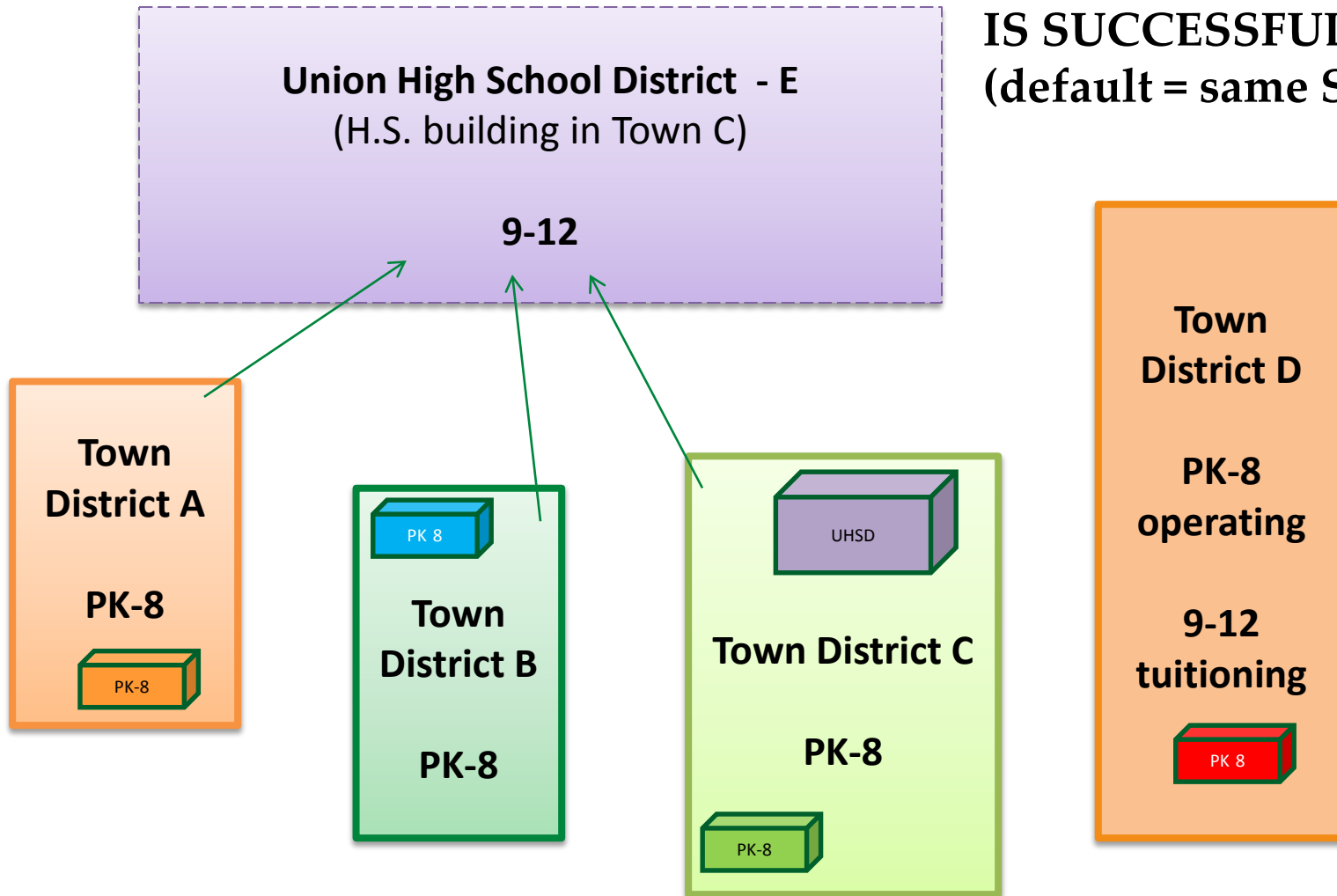
PK-8



Leaving Union School District

1. Voters in Town D: *withdraw?*
2. If yes
 - Voters in Member Towns A-C: *approve?*
3. If yes in each town
 - State Board of Education:
 - *Do Town D students have options?*
 - *Is USD ok w/ only A-C or dissolve?*

**IF WITHDRAWAL
IS SUCCESSFUL
(default = same SU)**



C. LEAVING A SUPERVISORY UNION

Leaving a Supervisory Union

State Board of Ed can redraw SU lines

–On own initiative

or

–At request of school district(s)

16 VSA § 261

Leaving a Supervisory Union

A town or district cannot belong to two
SUs simultaneously

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***If dist is a member of union school dist
– it must first withdraw from USD***

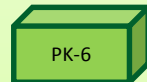
III. SOME POSSIBLE SCENARIOS WHEN YOU CREATE THE FINAL STATEWIDE PLAN

A. LIKE DISTRICTS

Scenario #1

Town District Y

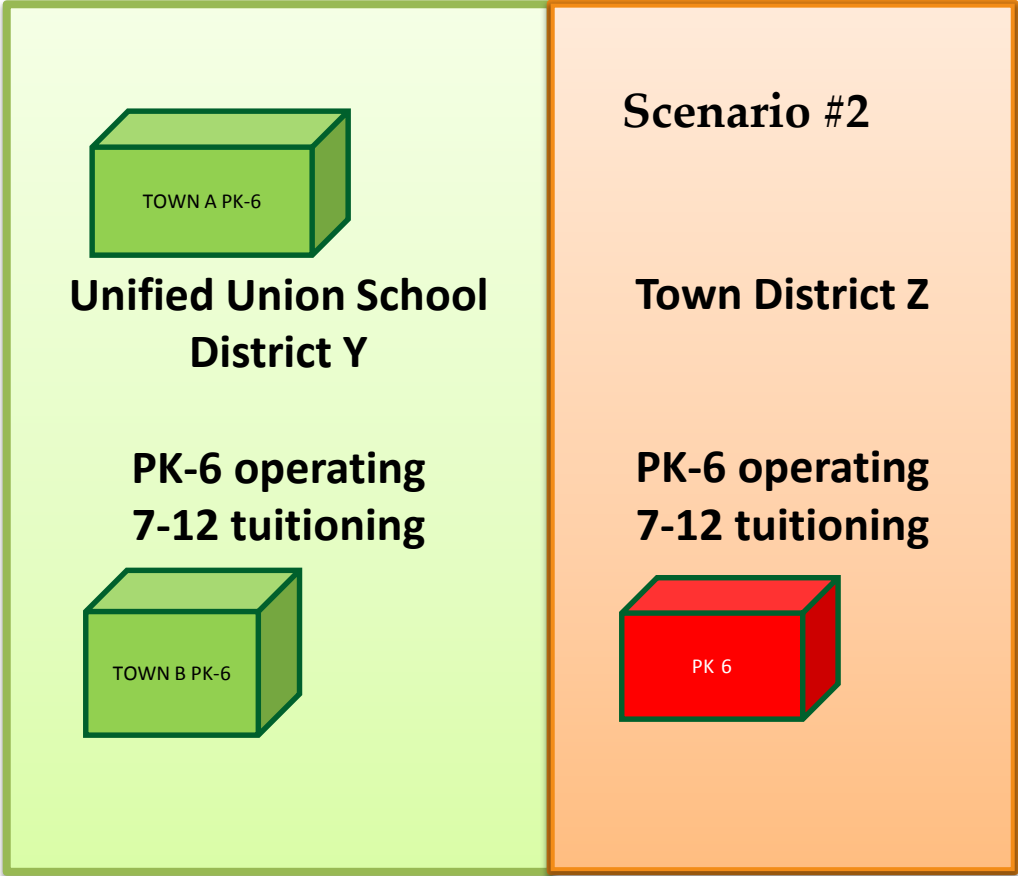
**PK-6 operating
7-12 tuitioning**



Town District Z

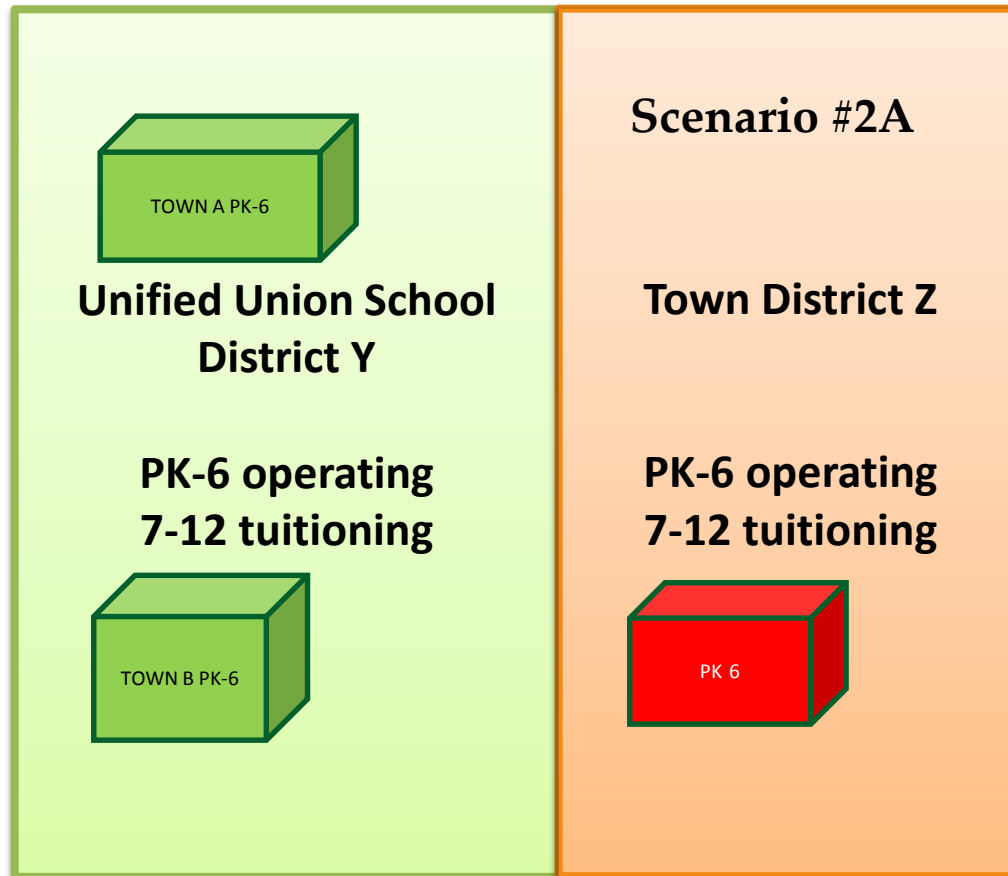
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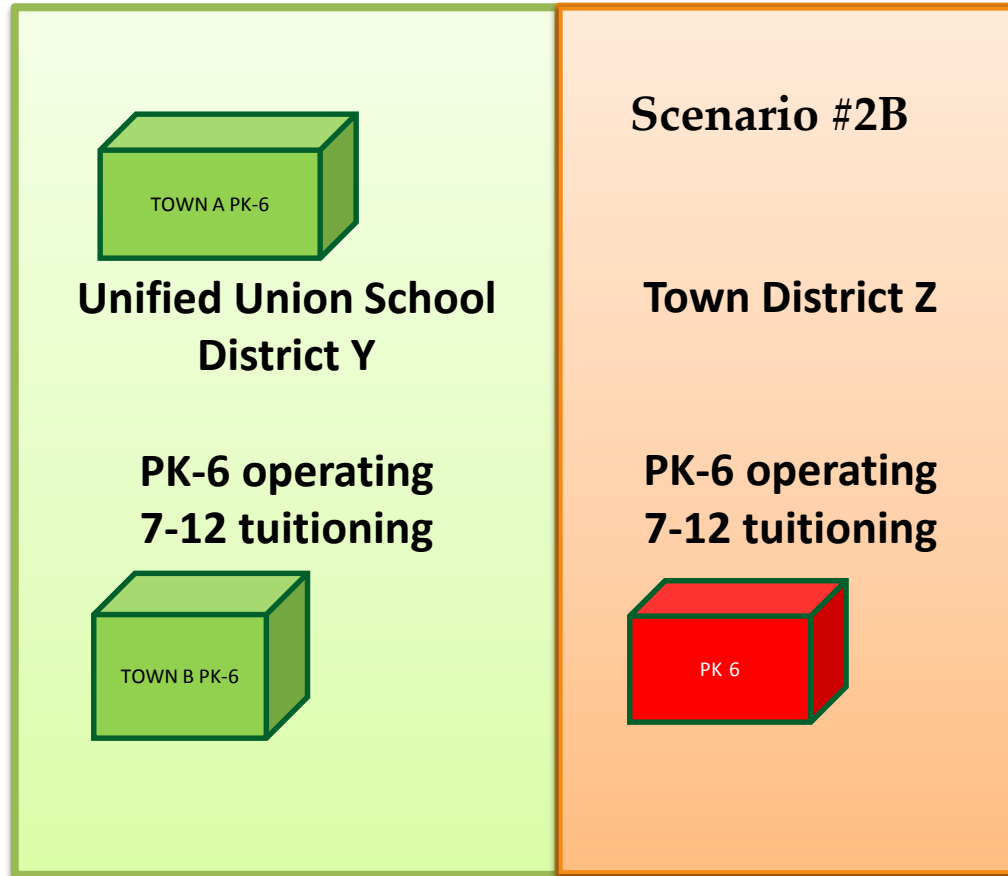
If UUSD
was not
eligible for
Tax Rate
Reductions,
etc.

Then same
as Scenario
#1

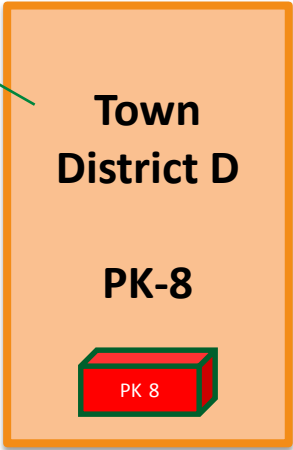
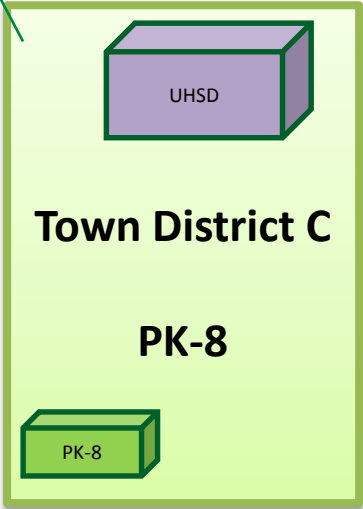
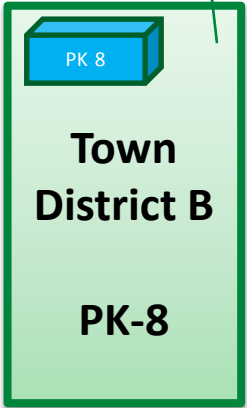
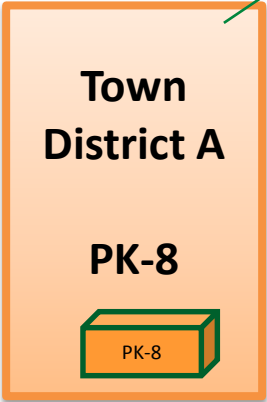
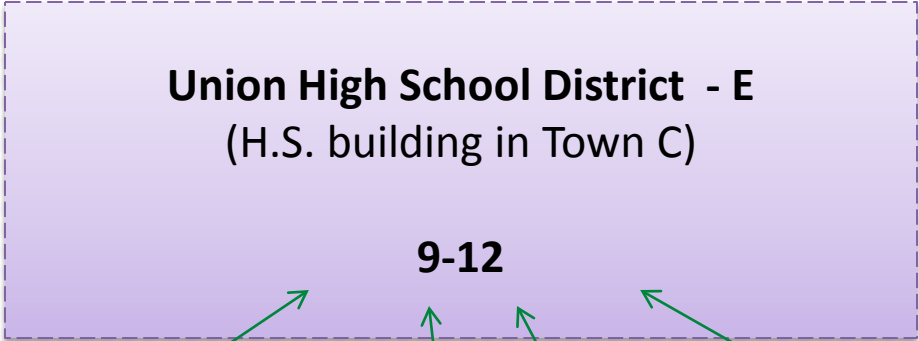


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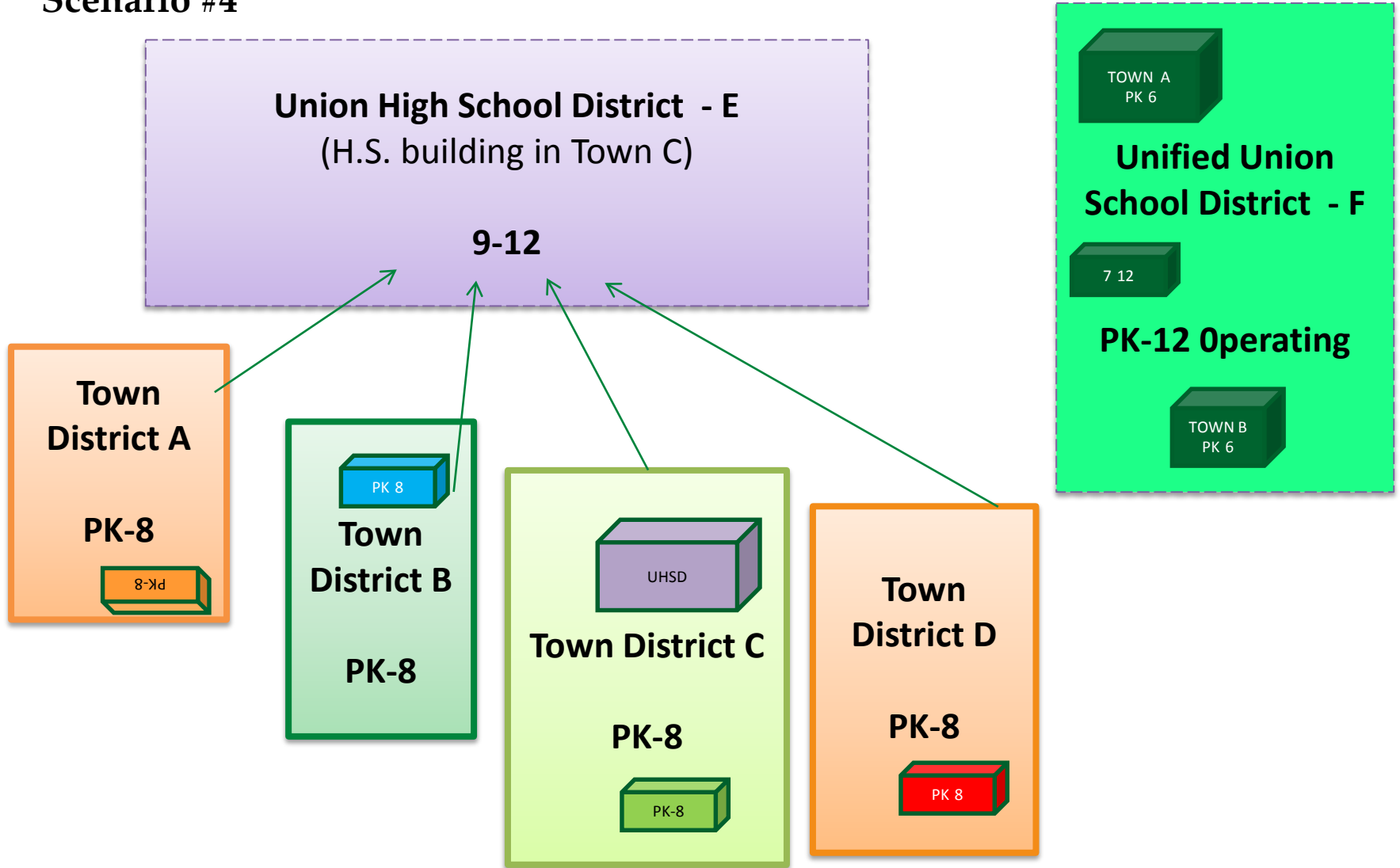
Then UUSD
voters vote
whether to
accept TD Z



Scenario #3

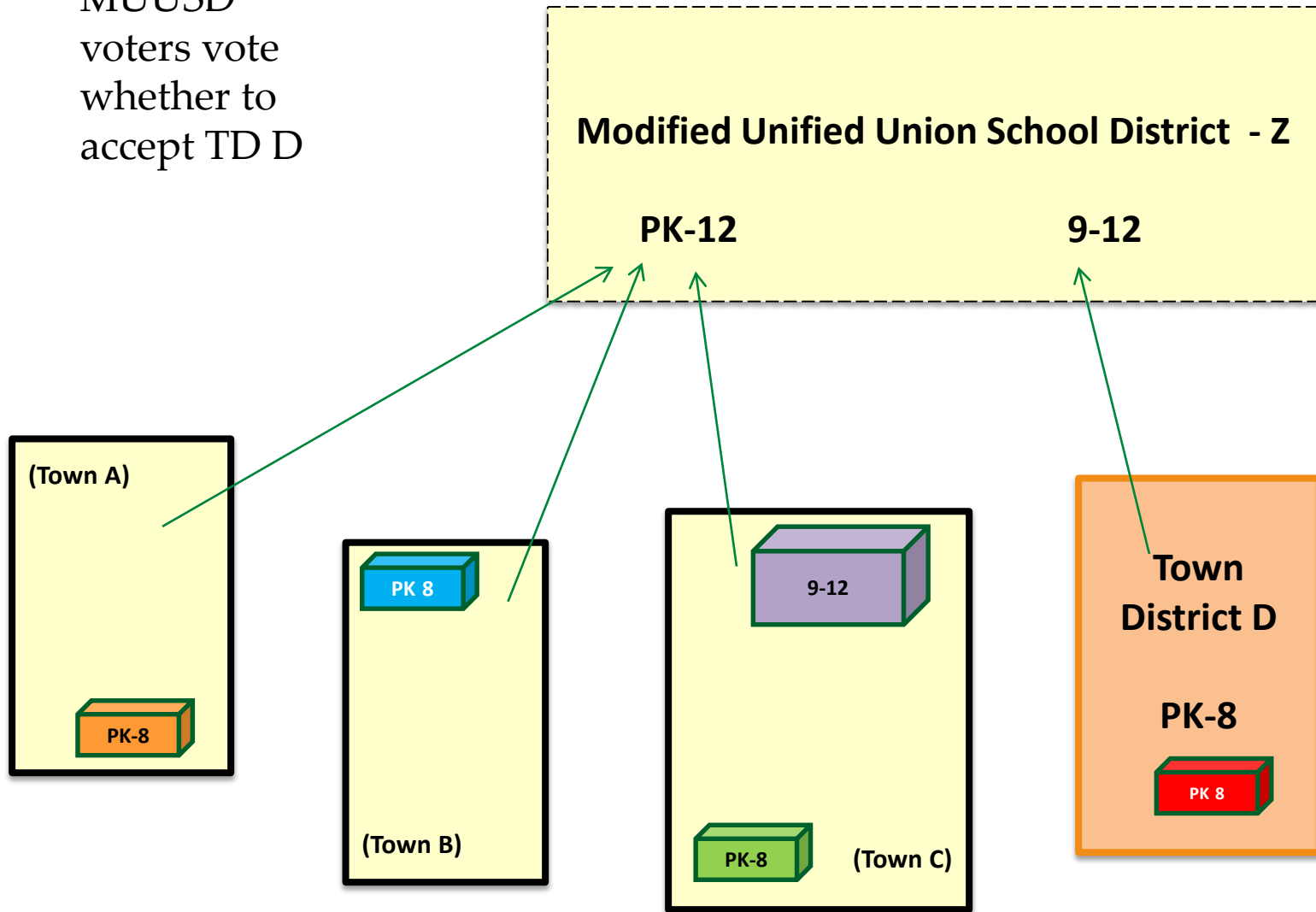


Scenario #4



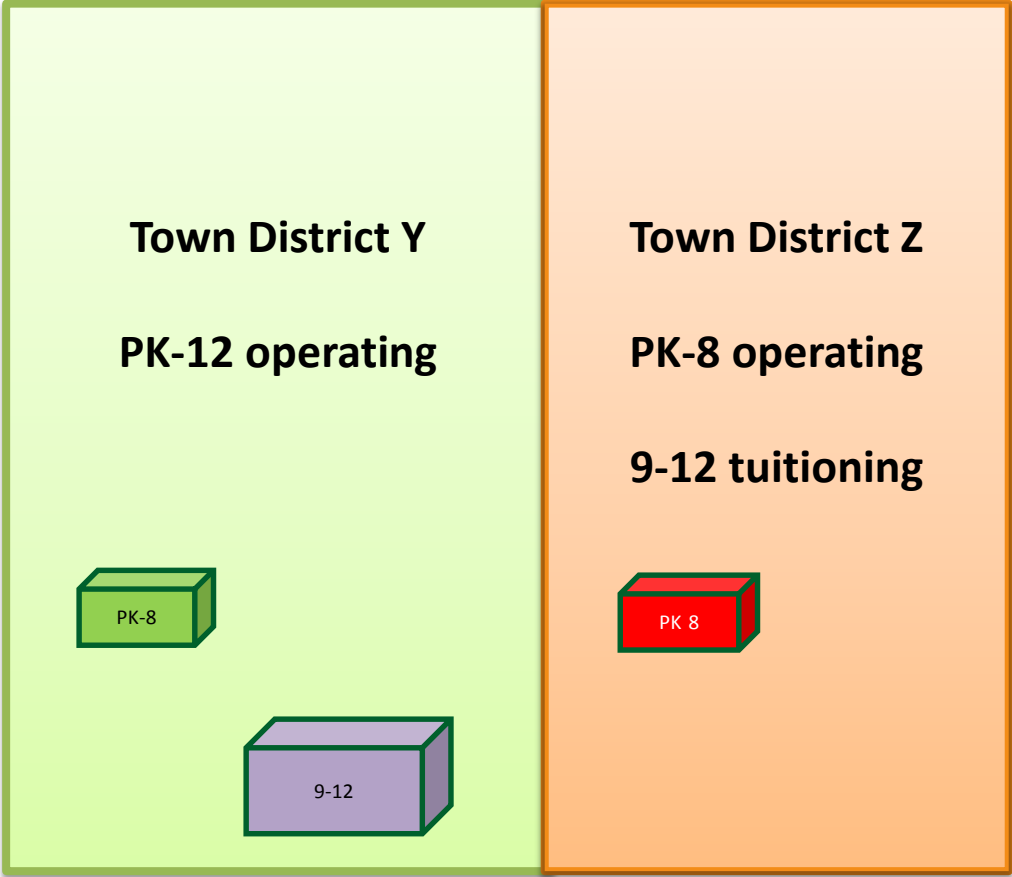
Scenario #5

MUUSD
voters vote
whether to
accept TD D

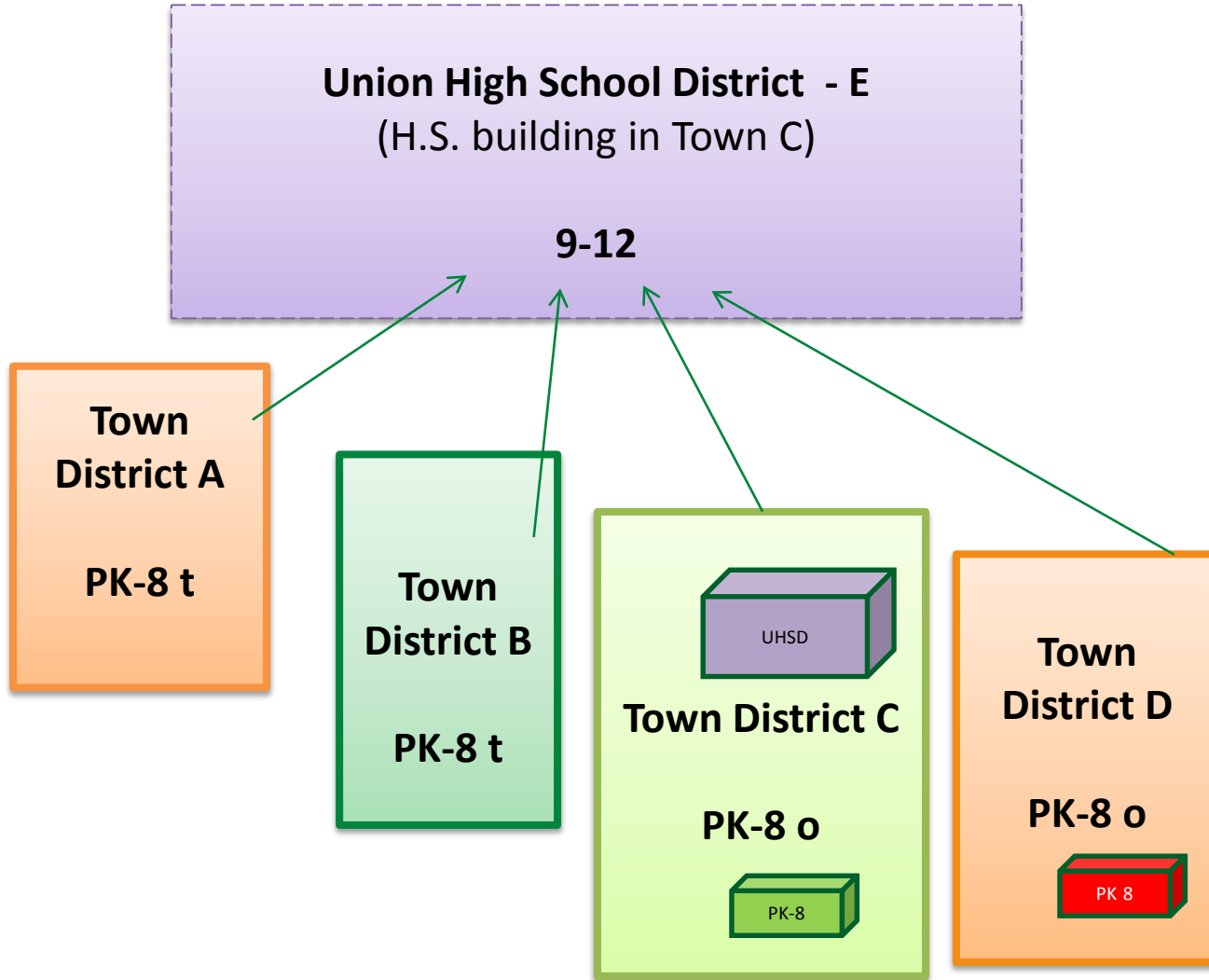


B. UNLIKE DISTRICTS

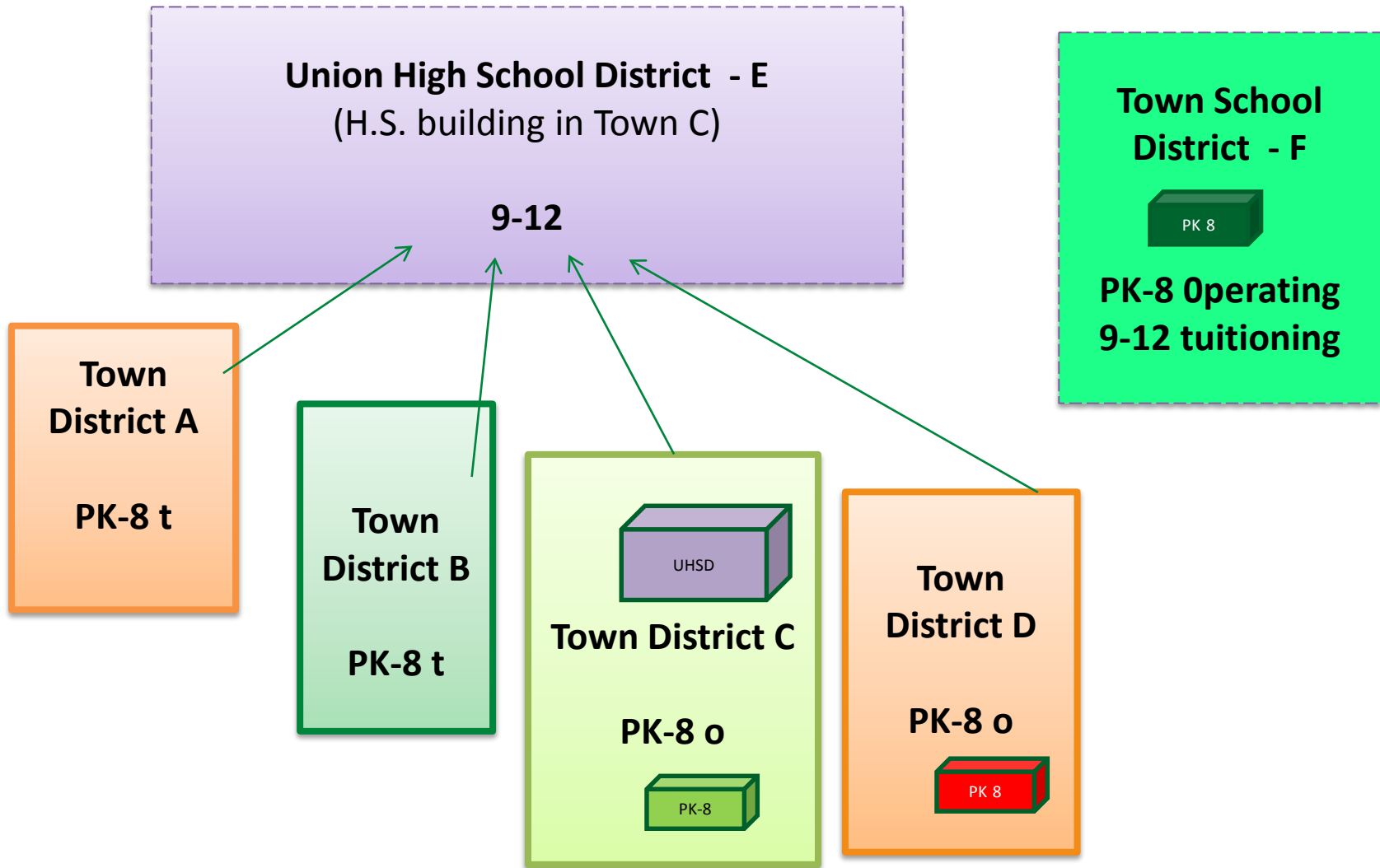
Scenario #6



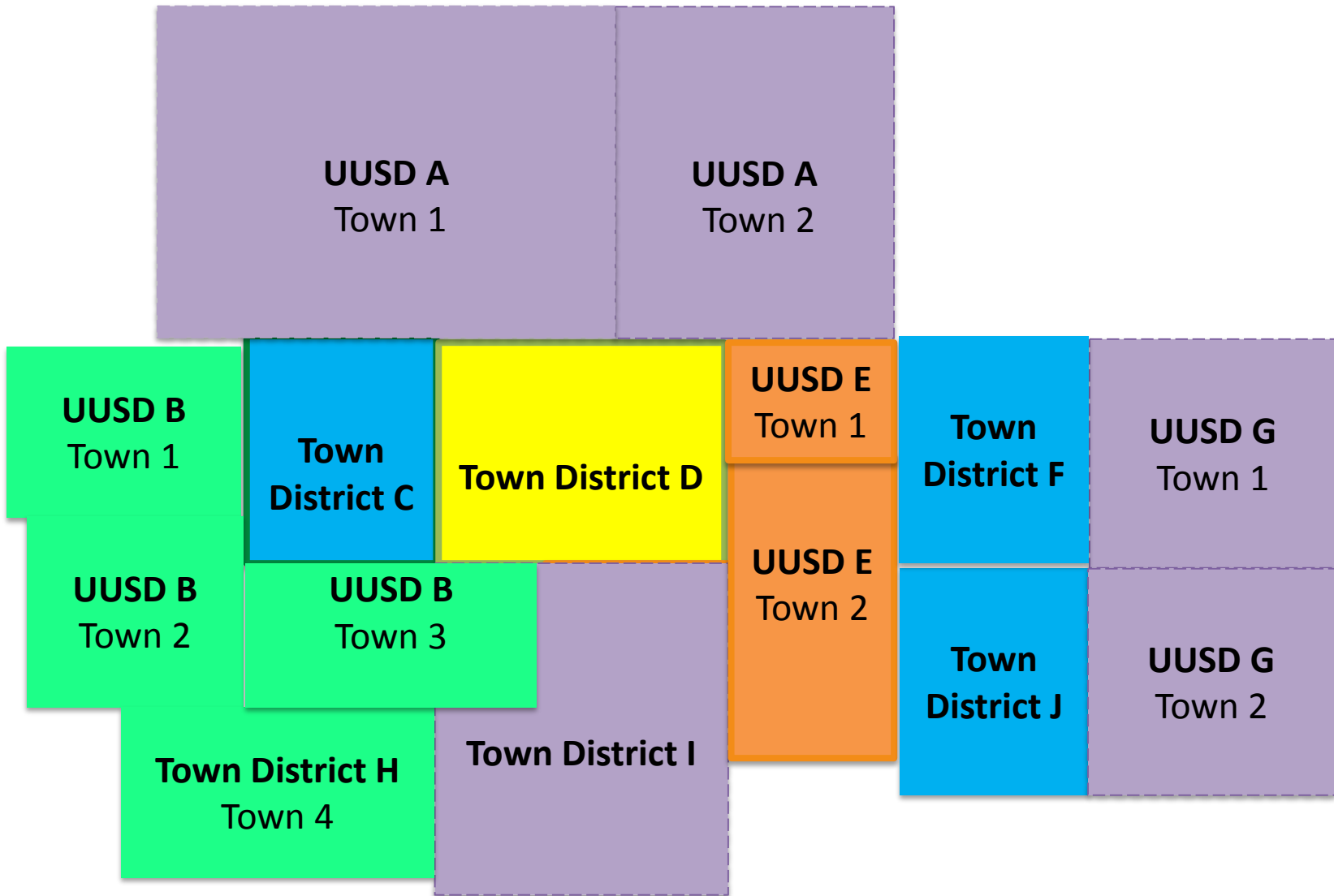
Scenario #7



Scenario #8



C. MOST LIKELY A MIXTURE ...



<http://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/school-governance>

education.vermont.gov

- Vermont-Schools
 - School-Governance
 - [Options](#)
 - [Guidance](#)
 - [Merger Activity](#)

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