

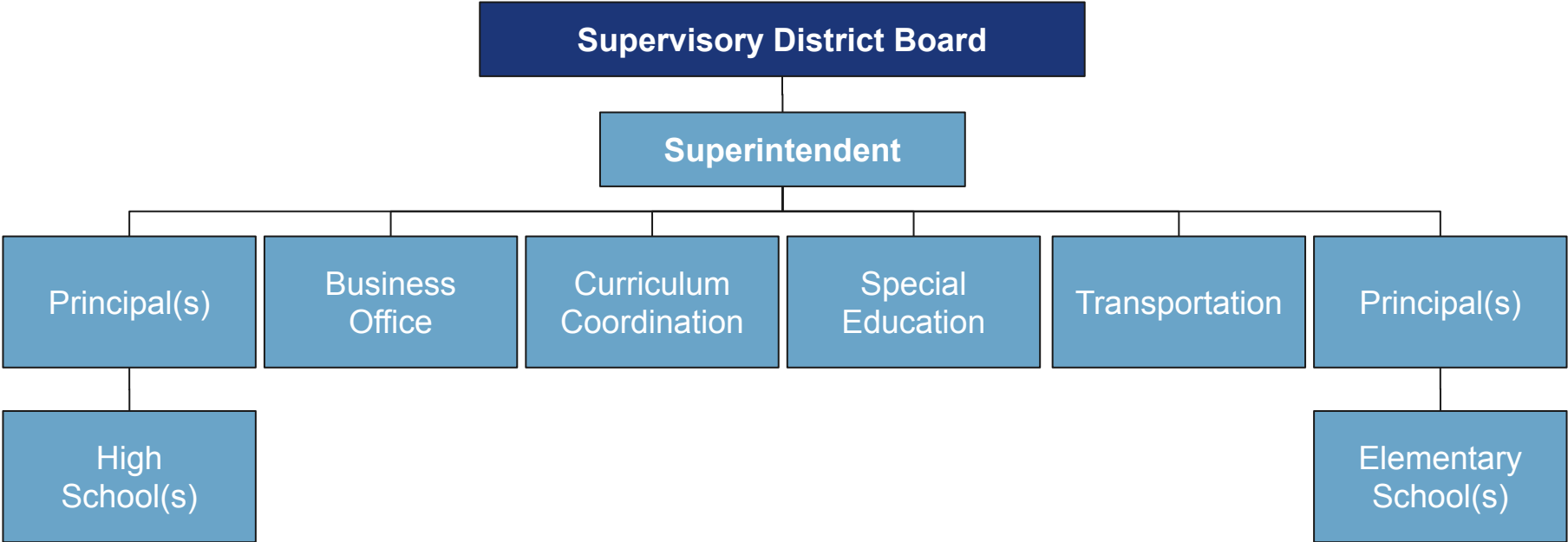


Addison County Governance Issues

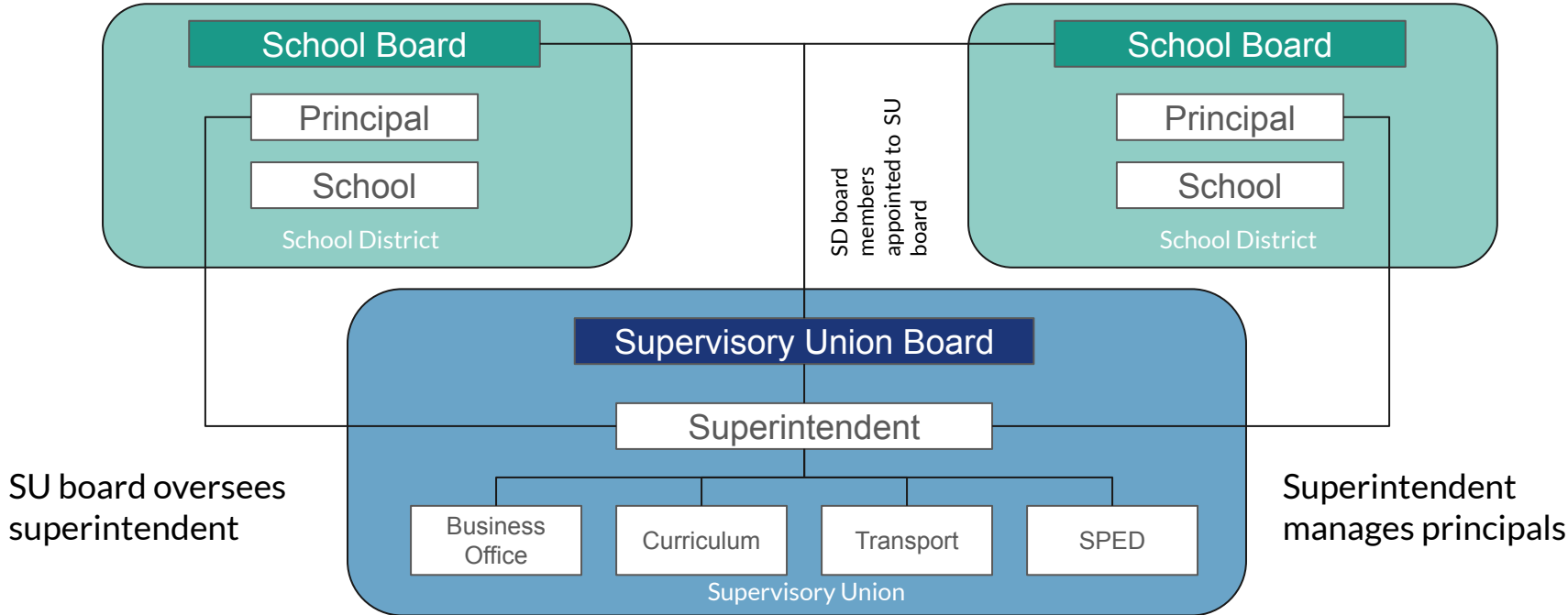
Oliver Olsen, State Board of Education
June 15, 2022



Typical Structure for Supervisory DISTRICT



Typical Structure for a Supervisory UNION





State Board's Role in Governance Configuration

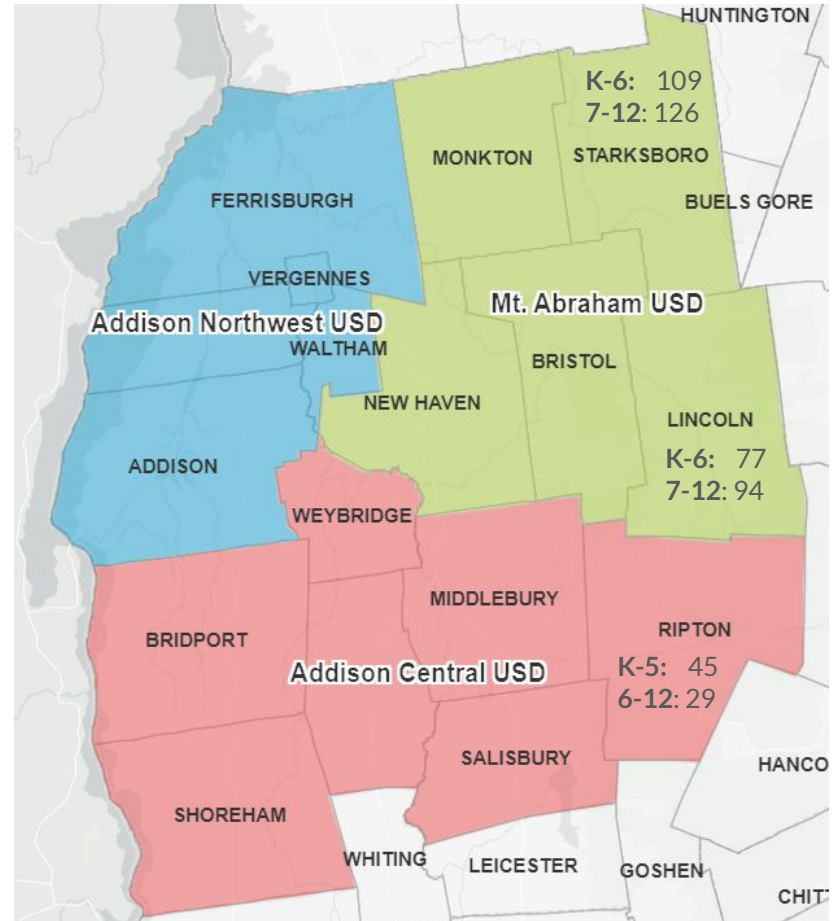
- The State Board is responsible for determining supervisory union configurations
 - Creating and dissolving supervisory unions
 - Assigning and reassigning school districts to existing supervisory unions
 - Declaring school districts to be supervisory districts (unified school district and supervisory union)
- The State Board has broad discretion in the exercise of its authority with respect to supervisory union configuration, including conditional provisions



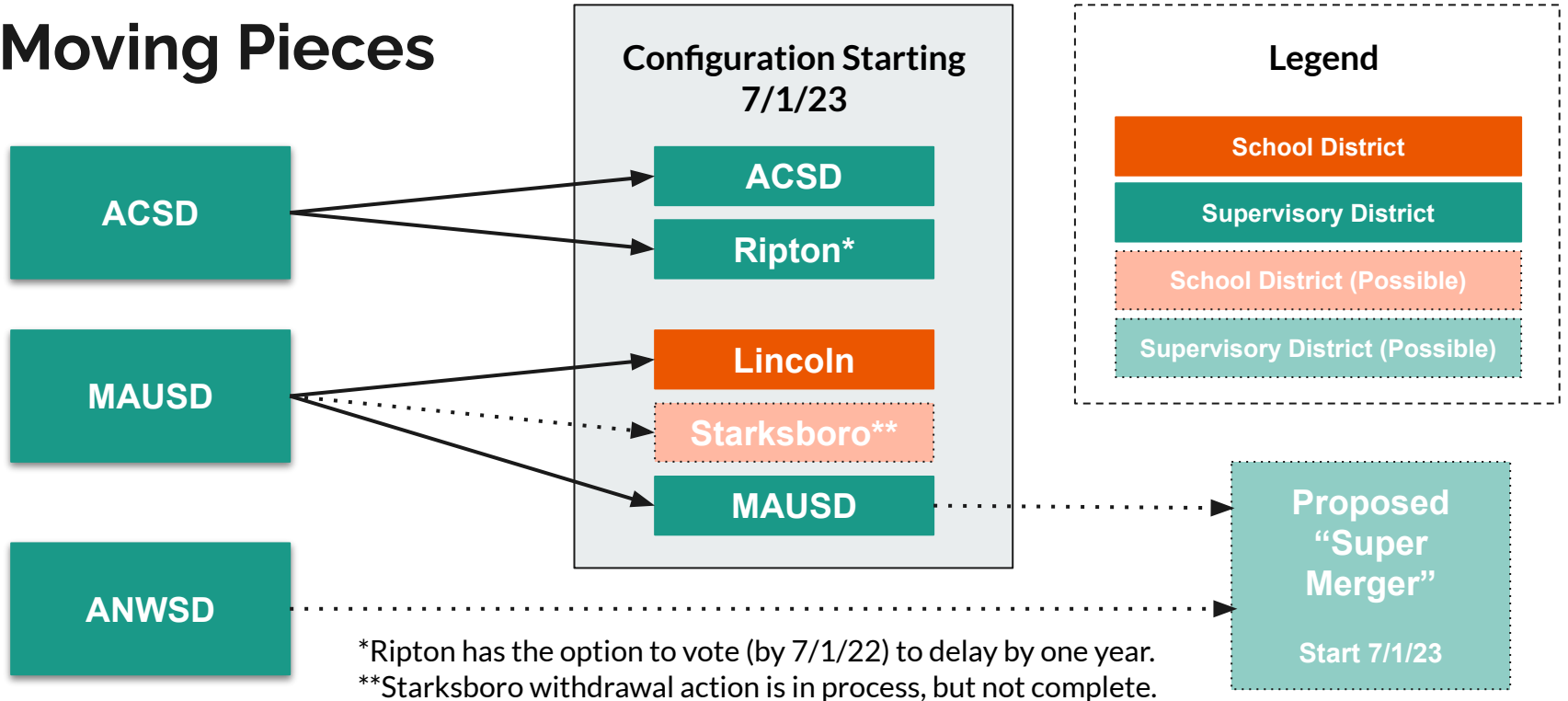
Current Configuration

3 Supervisory Districts

Supervisory District	Student Count
Addison Central (ACSD)	1,747
Addison Northwest (ANWSD)	918
Mt Abraham (MAUSD)	1,450



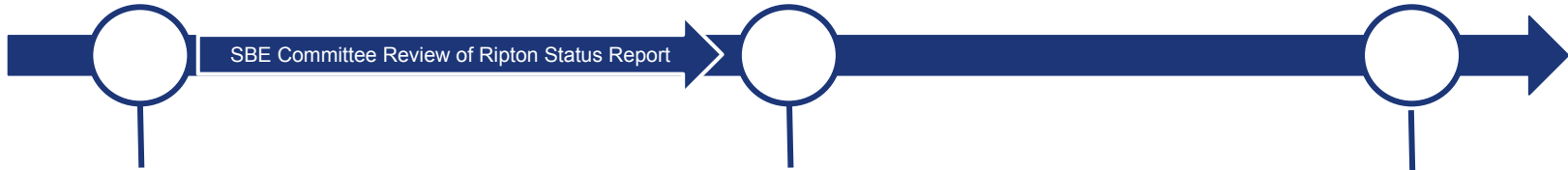
Moving Pieces





Timeline & Key Decision Points for State Board

July SBE Meeting



Consider approval of MAUSD / ANWSD merger proposal - prerequisite to bring to a vote of the electorate in November

May not be possible to schedule vote at November election if board action is delayed

August SBE Meeting

Issue advisory opinion based on a review of Ripton's status report

Must be issued by 9/1/22 per Act 176 and with sufficient time for Ripton to consider options that extinguish 9/1/22

September SBE Meeting

Decide regional supervisory union configuration to support Lincoln (and potentially Ripton) school districts

Decision required before fall budget season begins



ANWSD / MAUSD Merger Proposal (July)

Decision

Should the State Board approve the ANWSD / MAUSD merger proposal, which would allow it to go to the voters in November?

Potential Options

- Vote to approve merger proposal without modification
- Request modifications to articles of agreement
- Request that Lincoln be an advisory member

Considerations & Implications

- Impact of school closure language in articles of agreement on pending and potential future withdrawals vs. limiting authority of future district
- Lincoln as an advisable district (as an opportunity to undo withdrawal)
- Narrow window to approve proposal in time for November vote
- Impact of articles of agreement on Starksboro withdrawal



Ripton Advisory Opinion (August)

Decision

The State Board is required by Act 176 to issue a “determination of preparedness” for the Ripton School District by 9/1/22.

Potential Options

- Issue a positive determination of preparedness
- Issue a negative determination of preparedness

Considerations & Implications

- A positive determination would allow Ripton to transition to operational state on 7/1/23 unimpeded and would provide a public “seal of approval” of Ripton’s plan
- A negative determination would provide Ripton an opportunity to hold a vote to undo the withdrawal action and return to ACSD, if the voters to choose - but Ripton can still move forward if they choose to do so



Decide Regional SU Configuration (September)

Decision

The State Board will need to resolve regional supervisory union assignments in response to Lincoln's withdrawal from MAUSD.

Potential Options

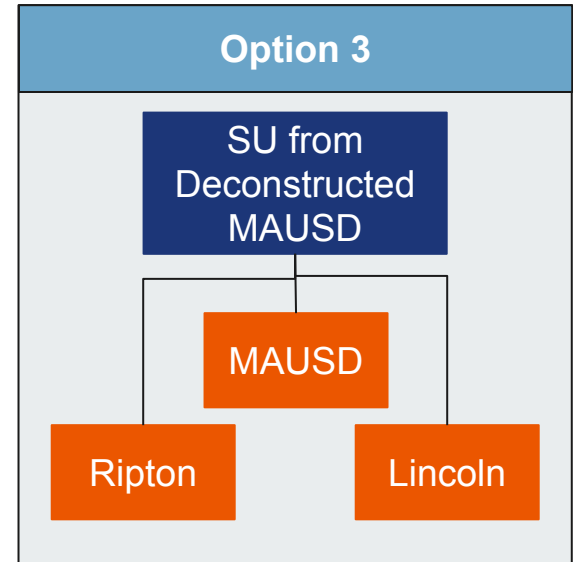
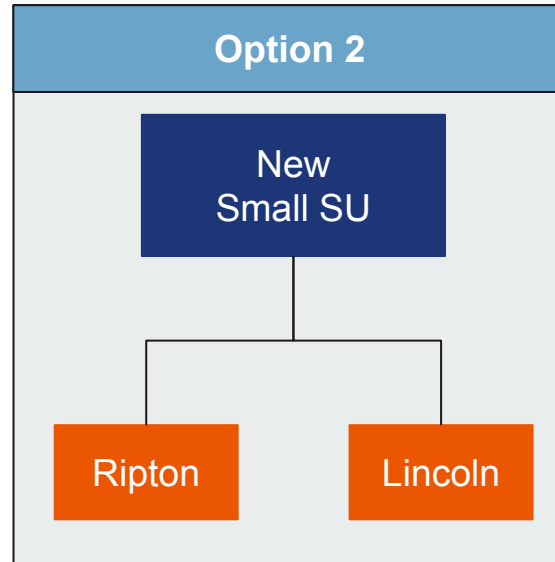
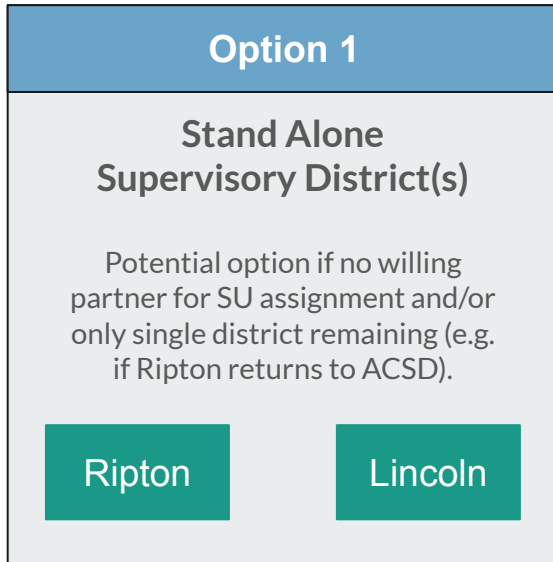
- Create a new supervisory union and assign Lincoln and Ripton
- Designate Lincoln as a supervisory district (with Ripton as separate SD)
- Deconstruct MAUSD (or its successor) into a multi-district SU and assign Lincoln and MAUSD as member districts, or assign Lincoln to another SU

Considerations & Implications

- Impact on students (esp. vulnerable students) without benefit of scale
- SU with Ripton may not be viable - or even an option, if Ripton delays
- General Assembly has identified the supervisory district configuration as the preferred governance structure, wherever practicable
- MAUSD is opposed to being deconstructed into a multi-district SU
- Interplay between SU configuration options and ANWSD/MAUSD merger

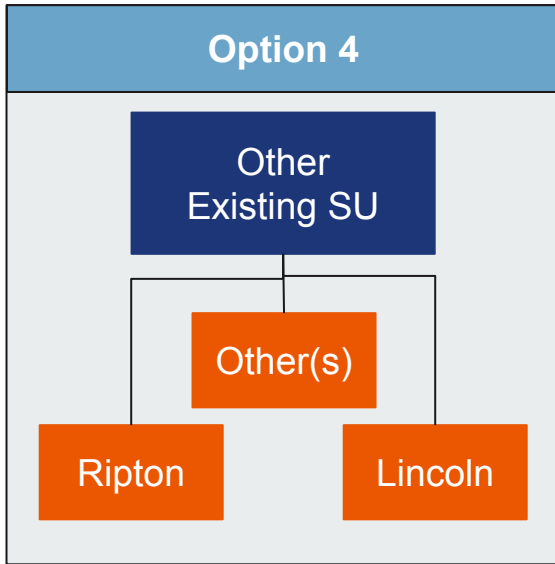


Potential SU/SD Configuration Options





Potential SU/SD Options (Continued)



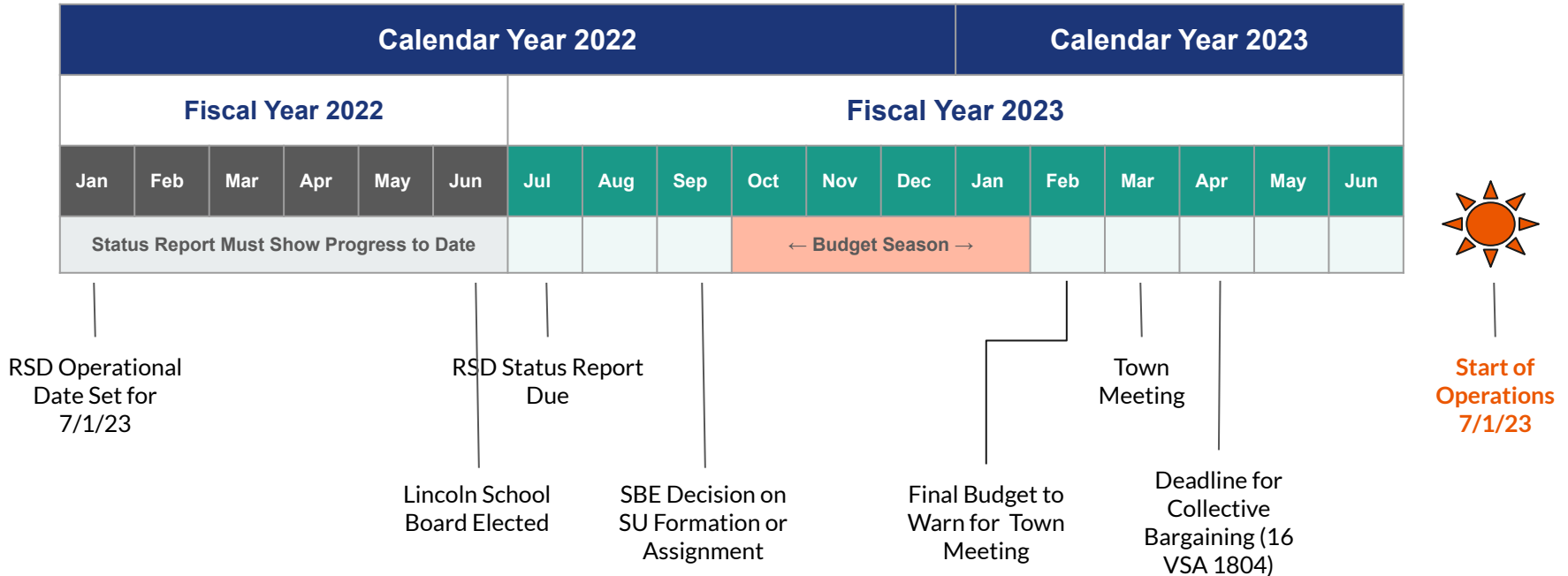
Only two existing SUs in region

- Rutland Northeast SU (RNESU)
- White River Valley SU (WRVSU)

Contiguity most practical, but not required

- There could be non-contiguous willing partners, but would Ripton and/or Lincoln would need to bring them to the table

Ripton & Lincoln - A Few Key Milestones





Issues & Risks

- Students - particularly the most vulnerable - will be most negatively impacted by any instability during and after these transitions, especially in the smallest districts
- Limited time between now and the start of budget season to analyze options and make critical decisions (i.e. SU creation and/or assignment)
- We are in uncharted territory with many unknowns relative to process
- Significant workforce shortage (particularly acute in key SPED areas) is a serious threat to the viability of any small system would need to rely on fractional staffing



Risk Mitigation & Contingency Planning

- How will risk be managed and monitored during the transition?
- Who is responsible for oversight of the transition?
- What happens if risks materialize into major issues that threaten a successful transition?
- What are the contingencies, under what conditions can they be triggered, and how can they be executed?



Additional Info?

- What information will board members need to help with key decisions?

Questions & Discussion

