

State Board of Education

Review of Secretary's Proposed Statewide Plan

Act 46 of 2015, Secs. 1-5, 8, and 10, as amended

June 27, 2018

- I. Legislative Purpose, Requirements, and Guidance – BRIEF!
- II. Governance Fundamentals: Operating versus Tuitioning
- III. Secretary's Proposals

I. PURPOSE, REQUIREMENTS, & GUIDANCE

INTENT

To move the State toward
sustainable models of education
governance

5 GOALS

To encourage and support local decisions and actions that:

- provide *substantial equity* in the quality and variety of educational opportunities
- lead students to *meet or exceed* State EQS
- maximize *operational efficiencies* through greater flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources
 - goal of increasing district-level student-to-staff ratios
- promote *transparency and accountability*
- delivered at a *cost* that parents, voters, & taxpayers value

“Preferred Structure”

Legislative Determination that:

A school district is *best able* to meet Goals in a *sustainable manner* if it is:

- *responsible* for education of PK-12
- a supervisory district (single-district SU)
- 900(+) ADM
- organized in 1 of 4 most common structures

Act 46: Acknowledgement

In some regions – SD w/ 900+ ADM

- Not possible / practicable
- Not best model to achieve Act 46 goals

Act 46: Guidance – Sec. 5(c)

An SU “can meet the State’s goals, particularly if” it has certain characteristics

(listed in Sec’s proposal, p. 16)

Act 46: Final Statewide Plan

SBE revises and issues *final* Statewide Plan

“sustainable education structures”

designed to meet Goals

- necessary
- possible
- practicable

SBE Authority re: AGS – Sec. 10

“If it is not possible or practicable” to create an SD w/ 900+ ADM

- “may also include governance structures as necessary”

“such as”

- SU with member districts
- UUSD with <900 ADM

SBE Authority re: AGS – Sec. 8(b)

(b) Supervisory unions. The State Board shall approve the ***creation, expansion, or continuation*** of a supervisory union ***only if*** the Board concludes that this alternative structure:

(1) is the ***best means of meeting the goals*** set forth in Sec. 2 of this act in a particular region; and

(2) ***ensures transparency and accountability for the member districts and the public at large***, including transparency and accountability in relation to the supervisory union budget, which may include a process by which the electorate votes directly whether to approve the proposed supervisory union budget.

Consider and evaluate all available data and analysis

- e.g.
 - Sec 9 proposals
 - original merger proposal, if applicable
 - any related merger or Sec. 9 proposal
 - own analysis
 - etc.

II. OPERATING / TUITIONING

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

* ***operating a school*** *

OR

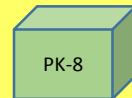
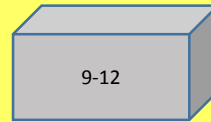
* ***paying tuition*** *

The voters decide between the two options

16 VSA § 821 & § 822

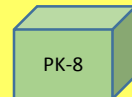
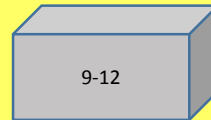
Town District X

PK-12 operating

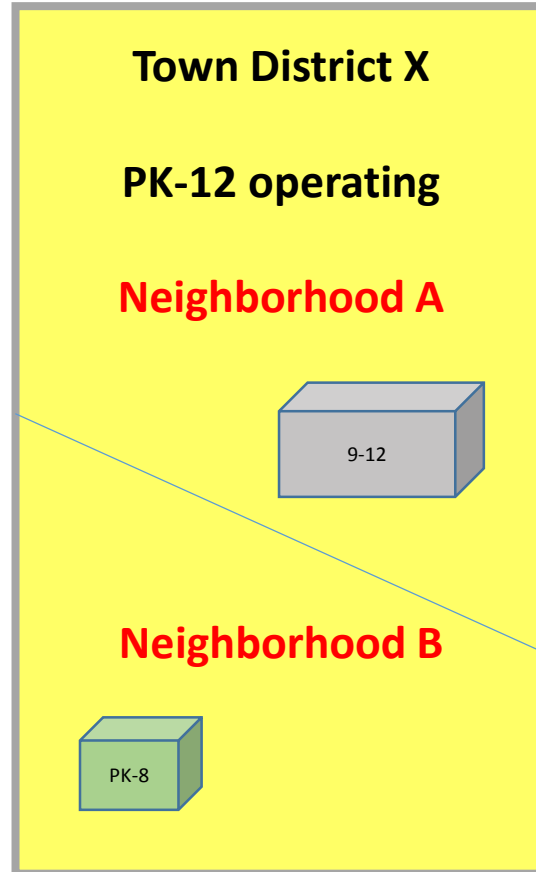


Town District X

PK-12 operating



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

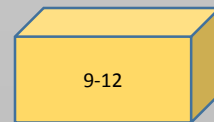
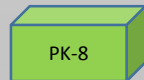


District X – a **single town** – cannot choose two different options for students in the same grade

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

Town District Y

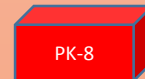
PK-12 operating



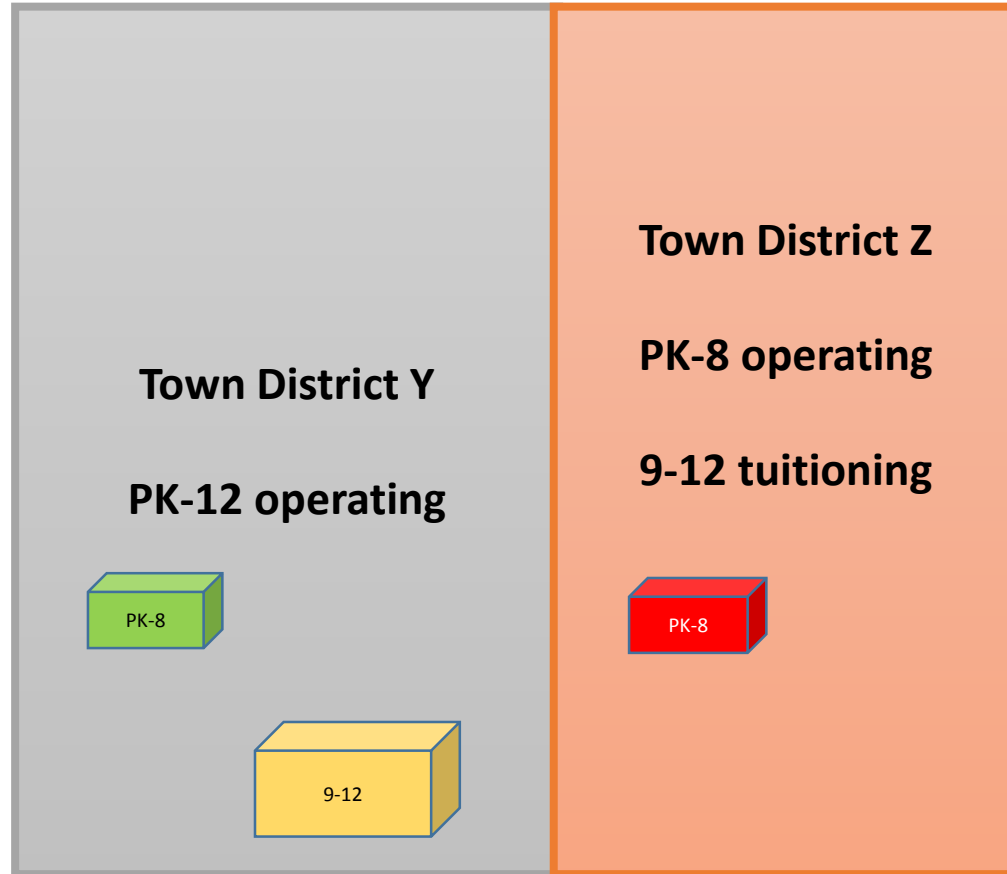
Town District Z

PK-8 operating

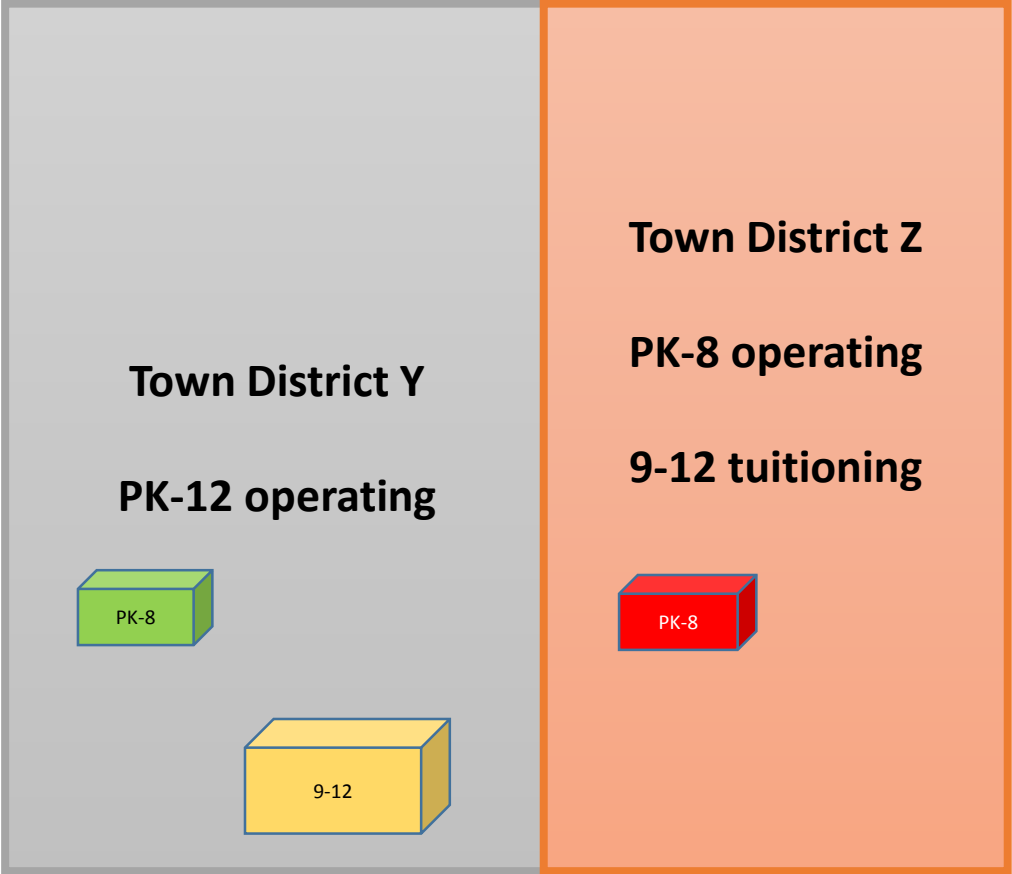
9-12 tuitioning



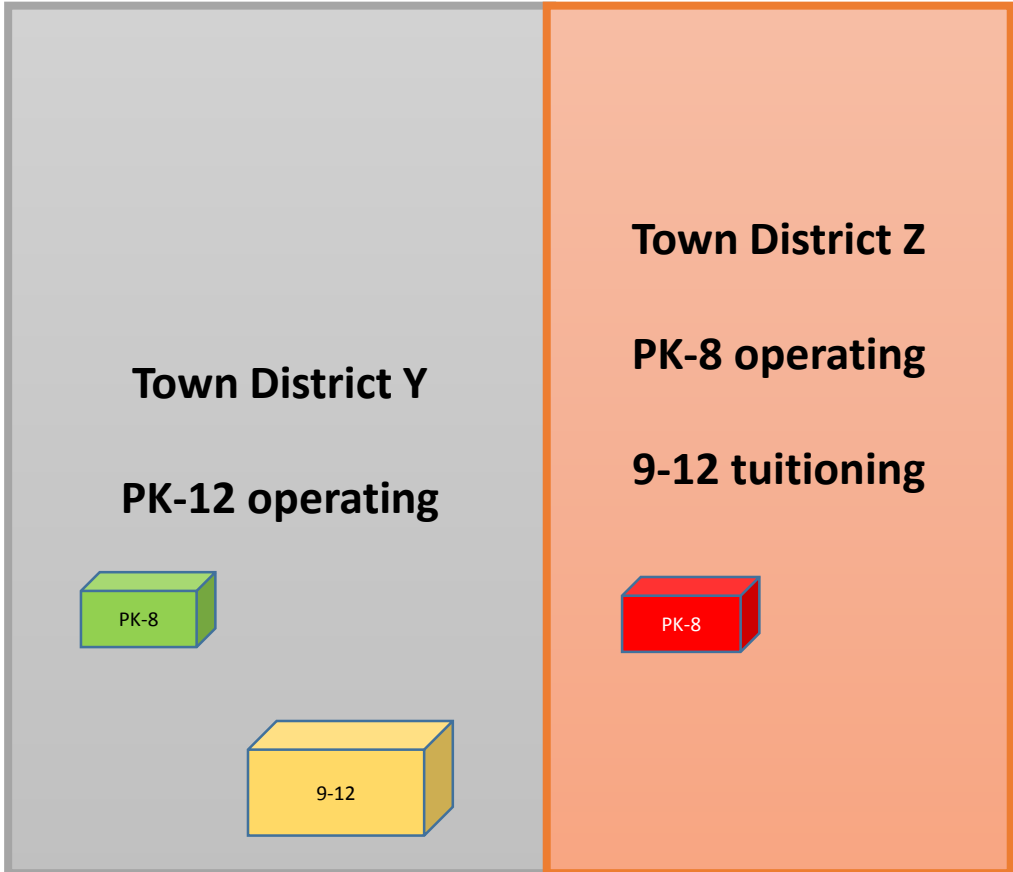
*If Y and Z
wish to
merge into a
single
district ...*



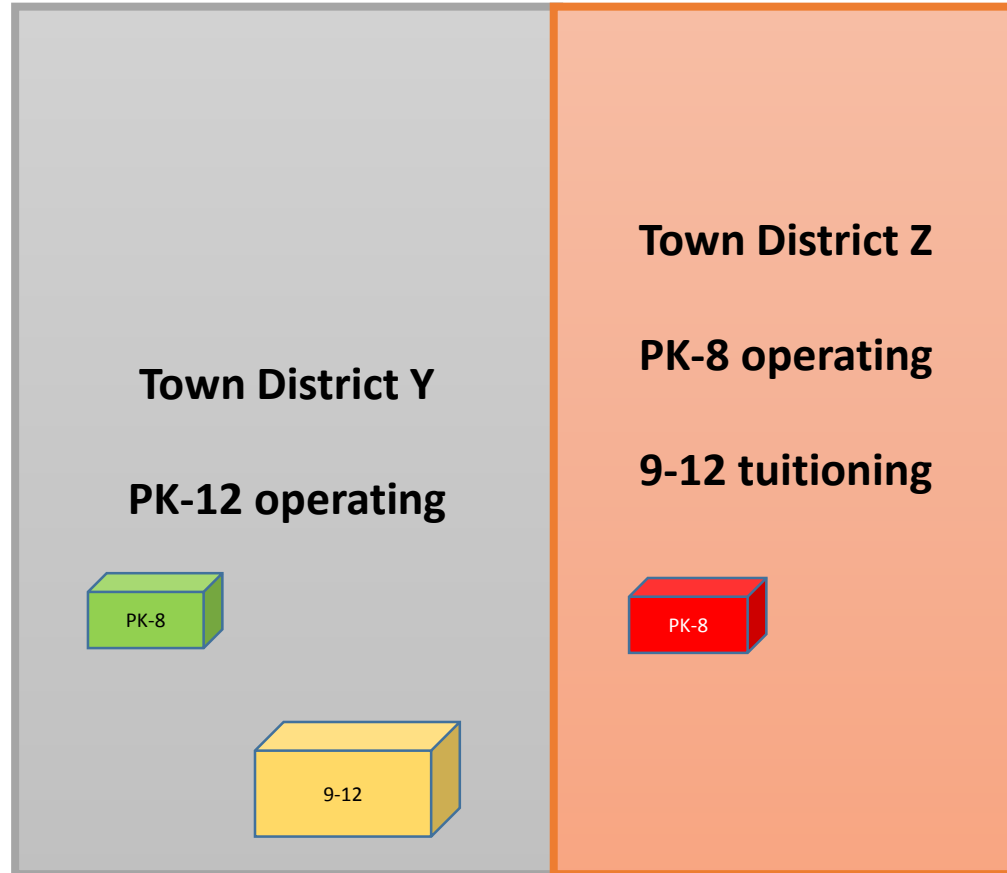
*then they
become a
SINGLE
LEGAL
ENTITY...*



*just like
Town
District X ...*

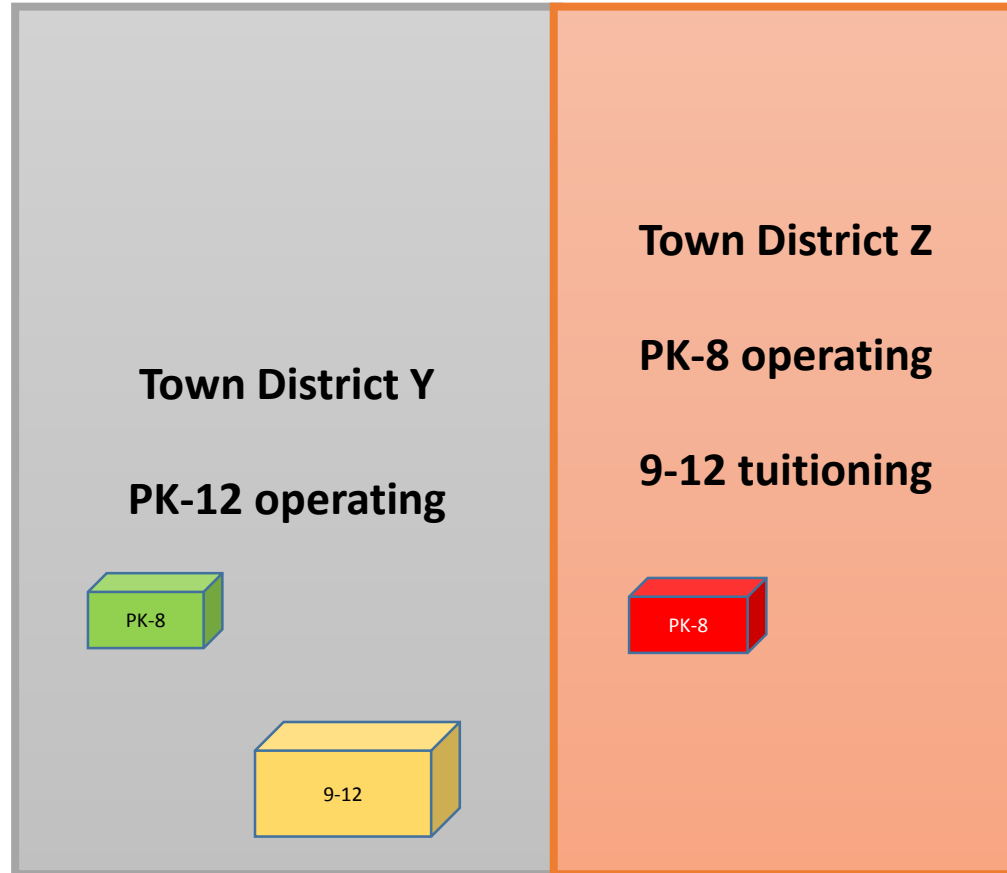


*Even though
the newly
merged
district
would
include two
towns*

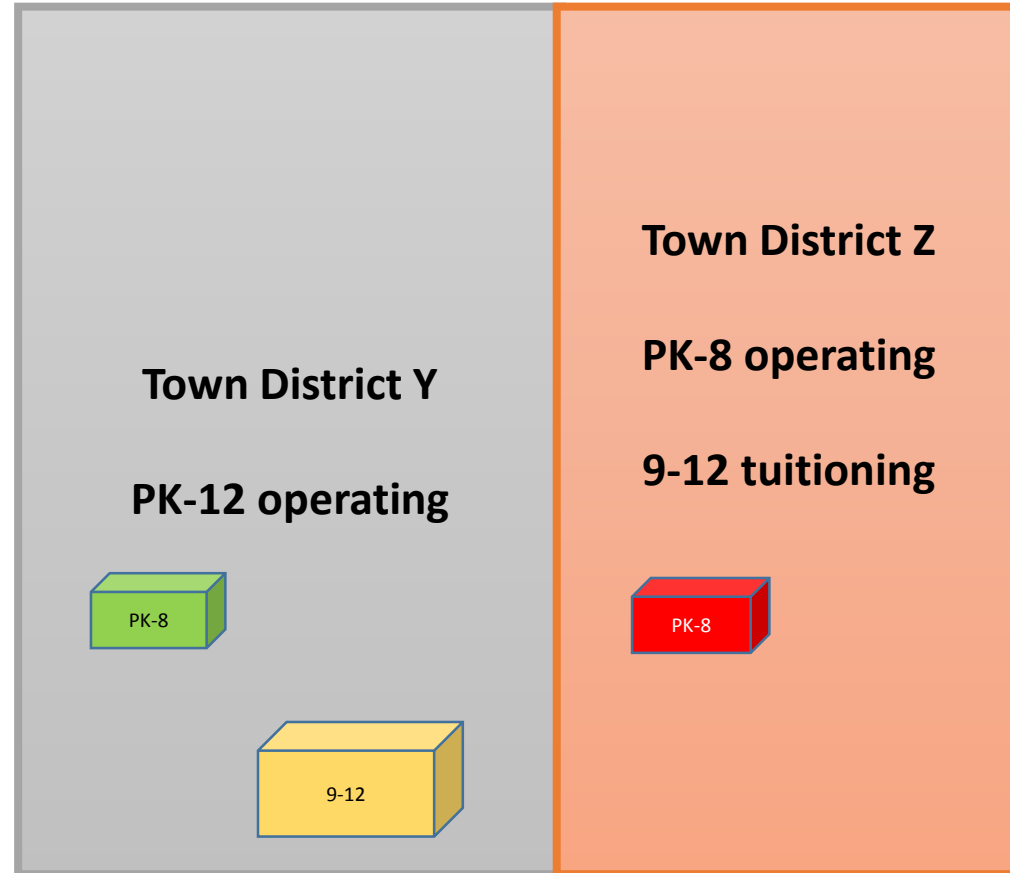


Single Unified:

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

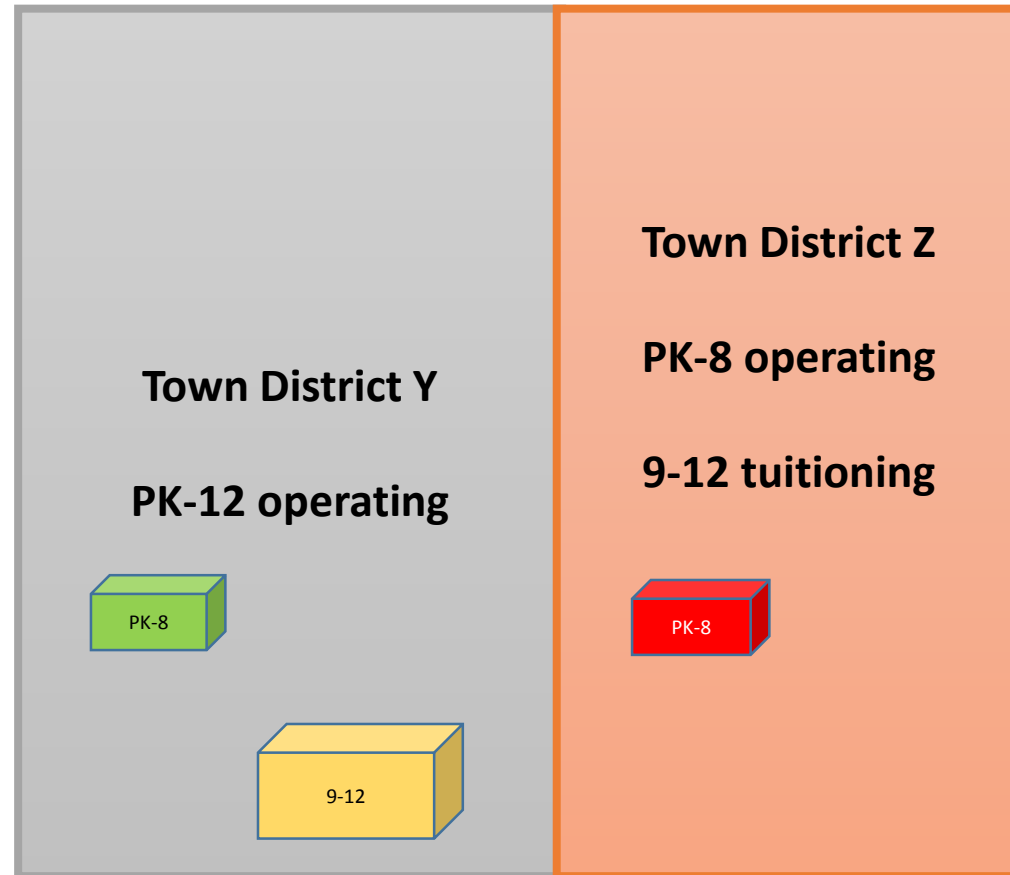


Think of the two towns as two neighborhoods –

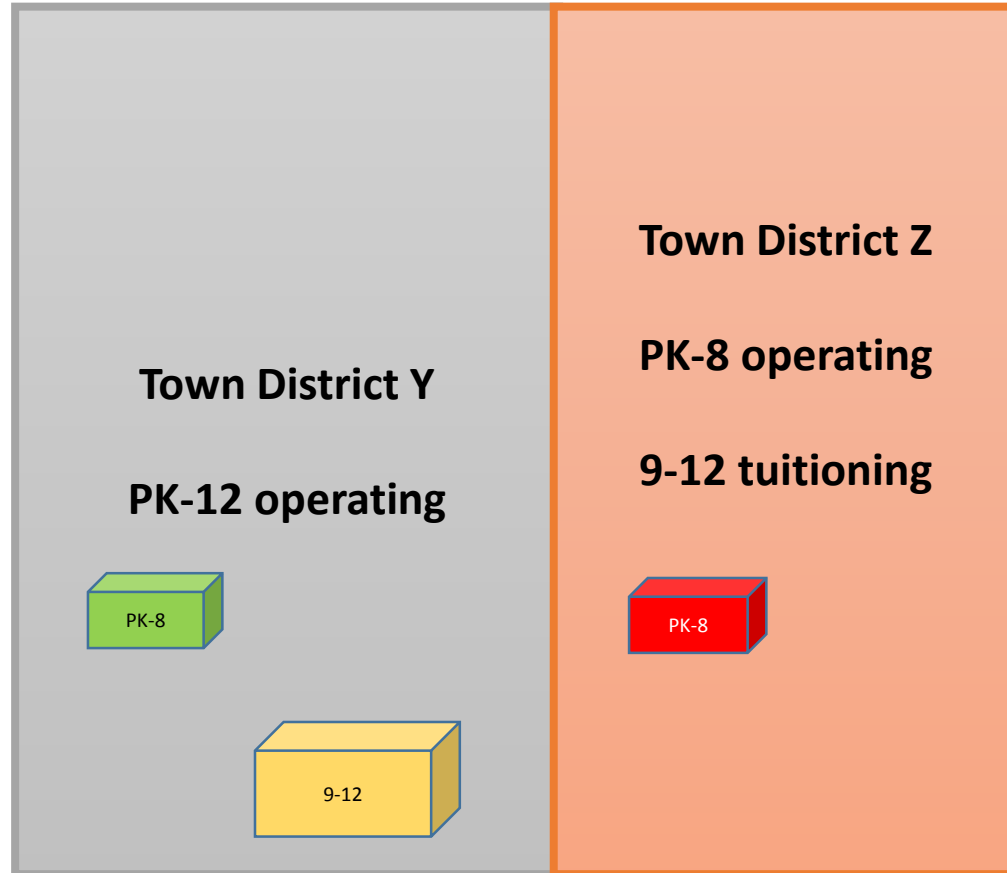


The students in the same grade must be educated in the same way ...

regardless of the "neighborhood" in which they live



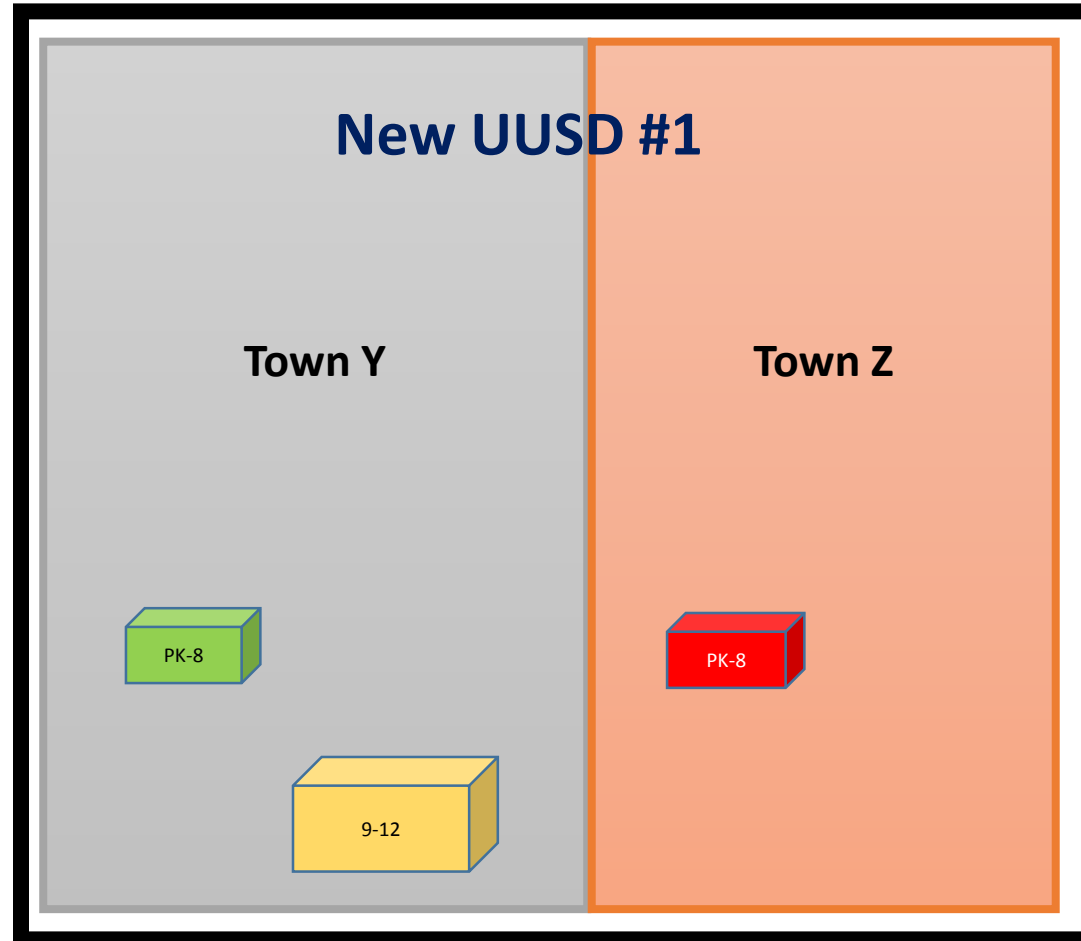
*So ...
if the voters in both
Town District Y and
Town District Z
approve merger,
then the voters
must also agree ...*



EITHER that

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

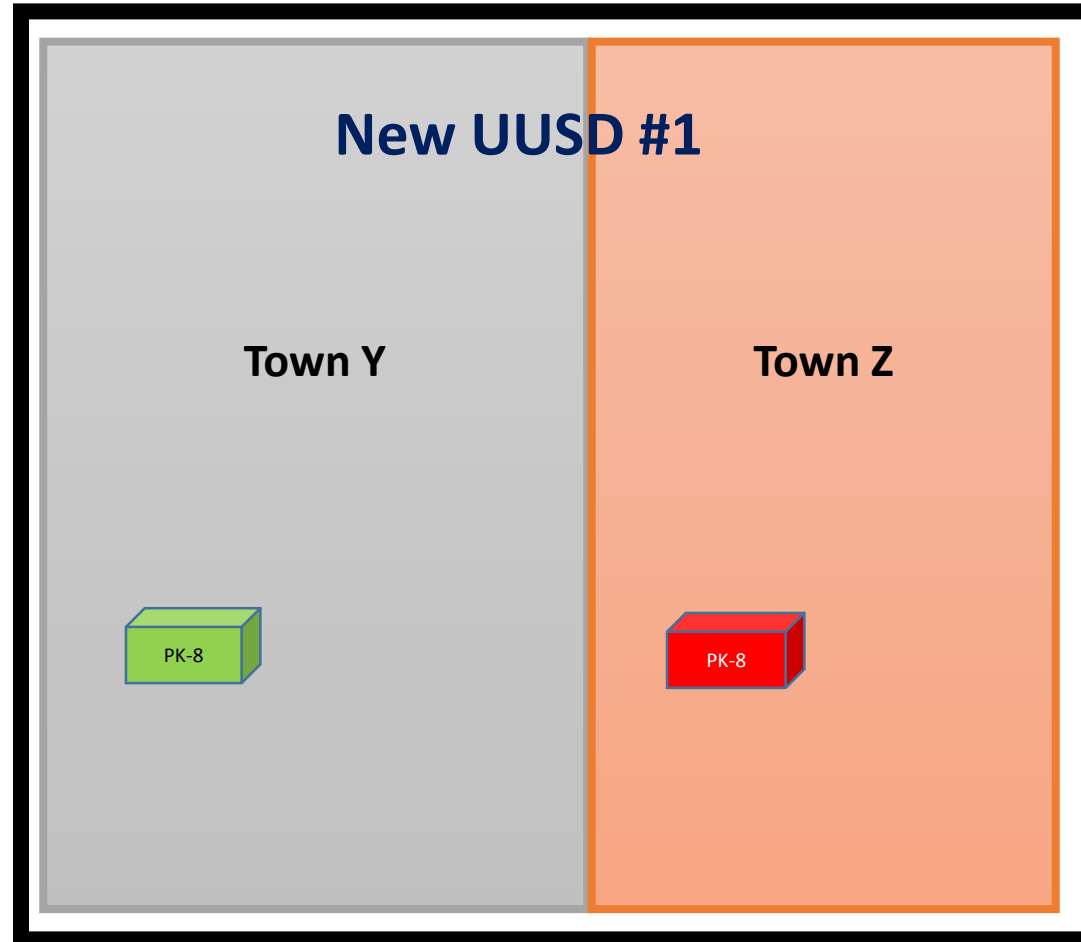
...



OR that

***The district
will not
operate a
high school***

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



Remember ...

Under current law:

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

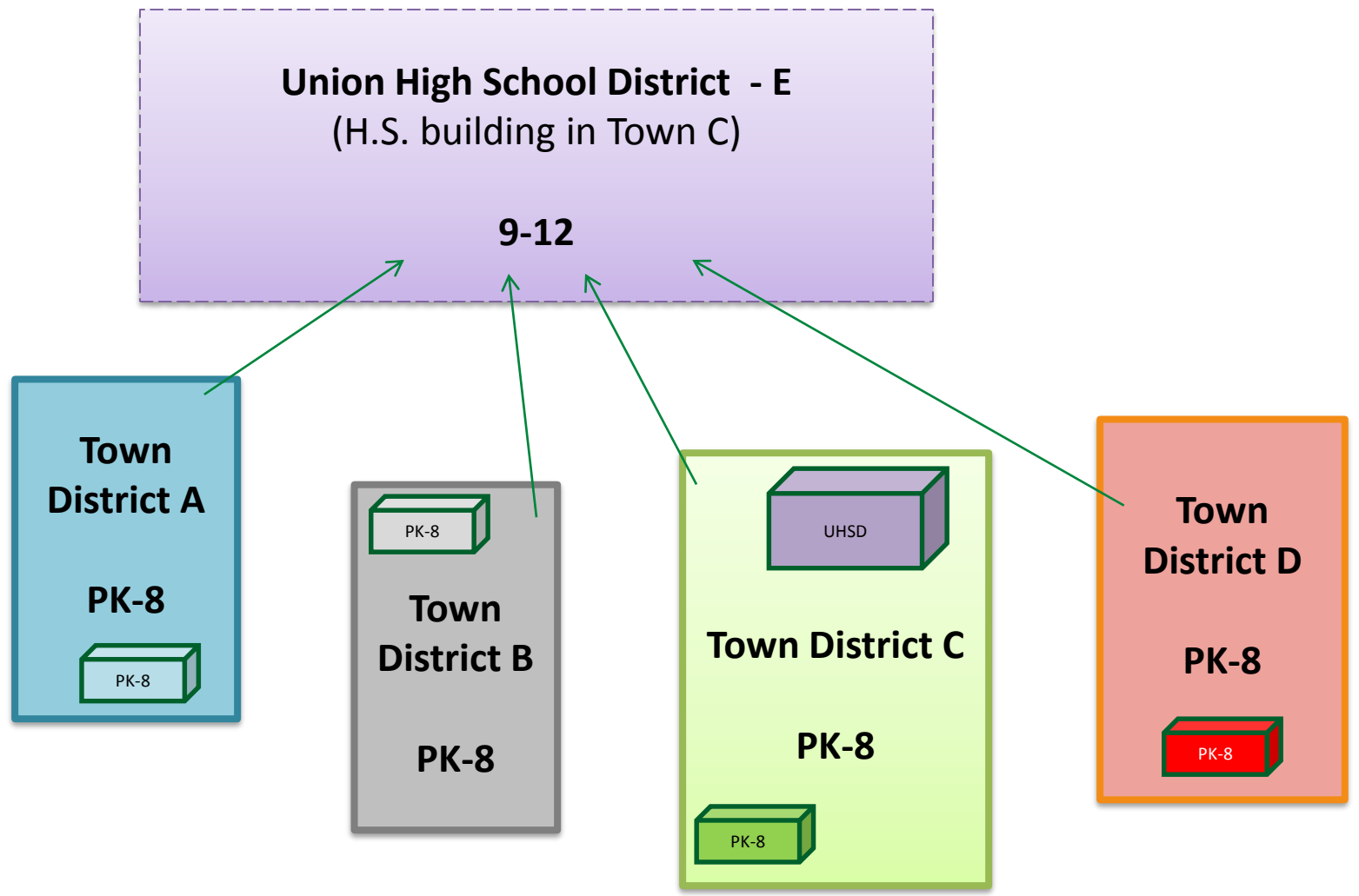
III. Secretary's Proposals

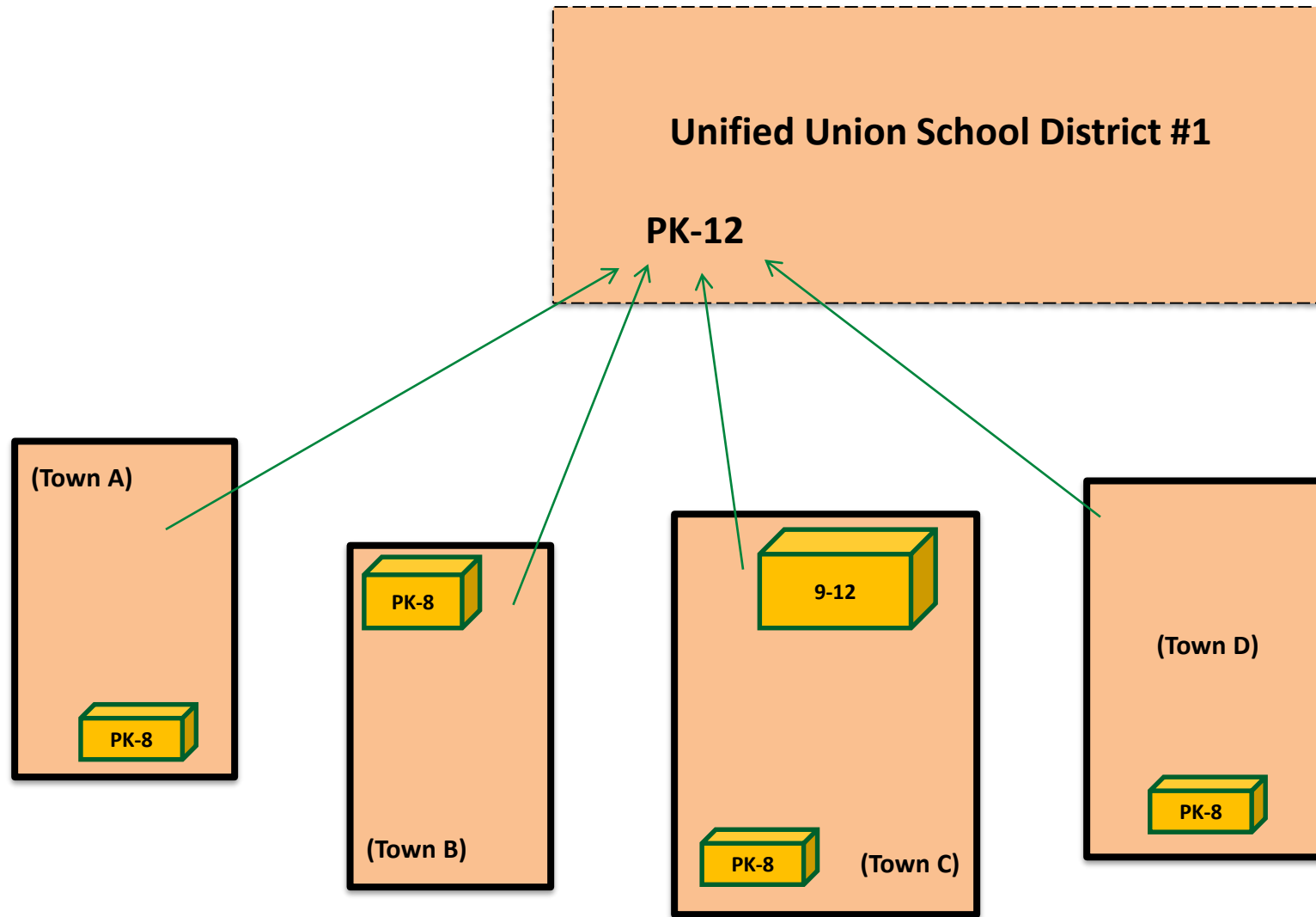
43 Discussions - Six Categories

Based on district's current structure:

- UHS & member elementary districts, all “like”
- NMED of a MUUSD
- Union districts with UN-like member districts
- PK-12 districts that pay tuition for all grades
- “Possible” – but “practicable?” Is AGS “best”?
- Not “possible” or “practicable”

UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
(UHSD) with LIKE Members





UHSDs with LIKE Members

1. Brattleboro UHSD & Brattleboro; Dummerston; Guilford; Putney
2. Missisquoi Valley UHSD & Franklin; Highgate, Swanton
3. Oxbow UHSD & Bradford; Newbury
4. Spaulding UHSD & Barre City; Barre Town
5. U-32 HSD & Berlin; Calais; East Montpelier; Middlesex; Worcester

MUUSDs and NMEDs

Union High School District - E
(H.S. building in Town C)

9-12

Town District A

PK-8

PK-8

PK-8

Town District B

PK-8

UHSD

Town District C

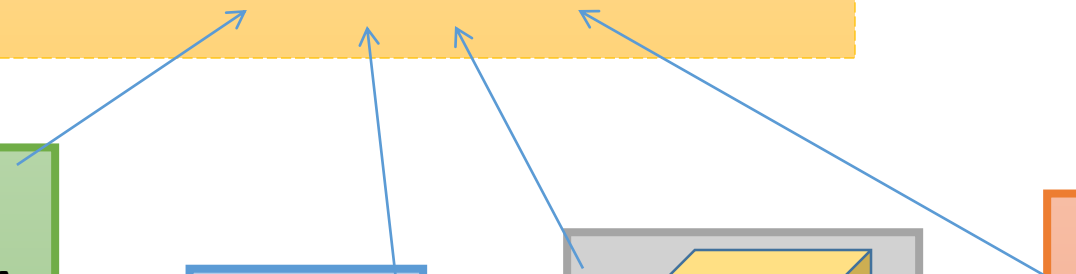
PK-8

PK-8

Town District D

PK-8

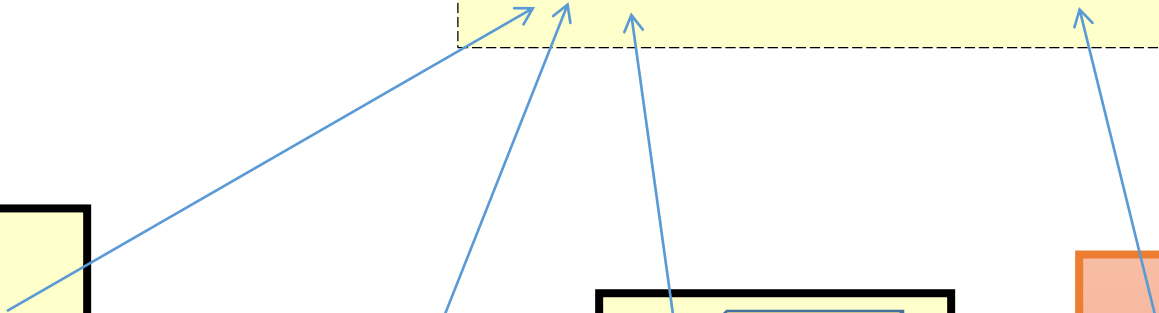
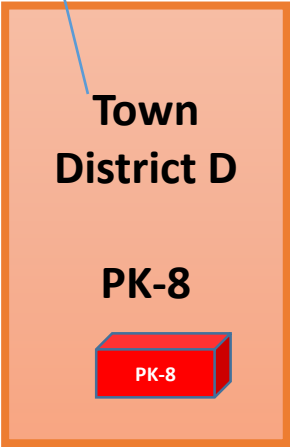
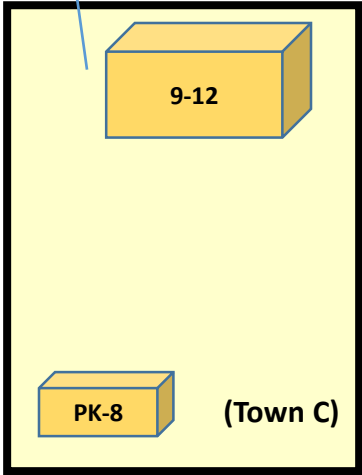
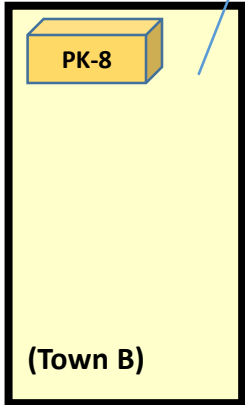
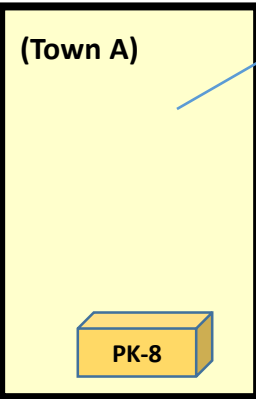
PK-8



Modified Unified Union School District - Z

PK-12

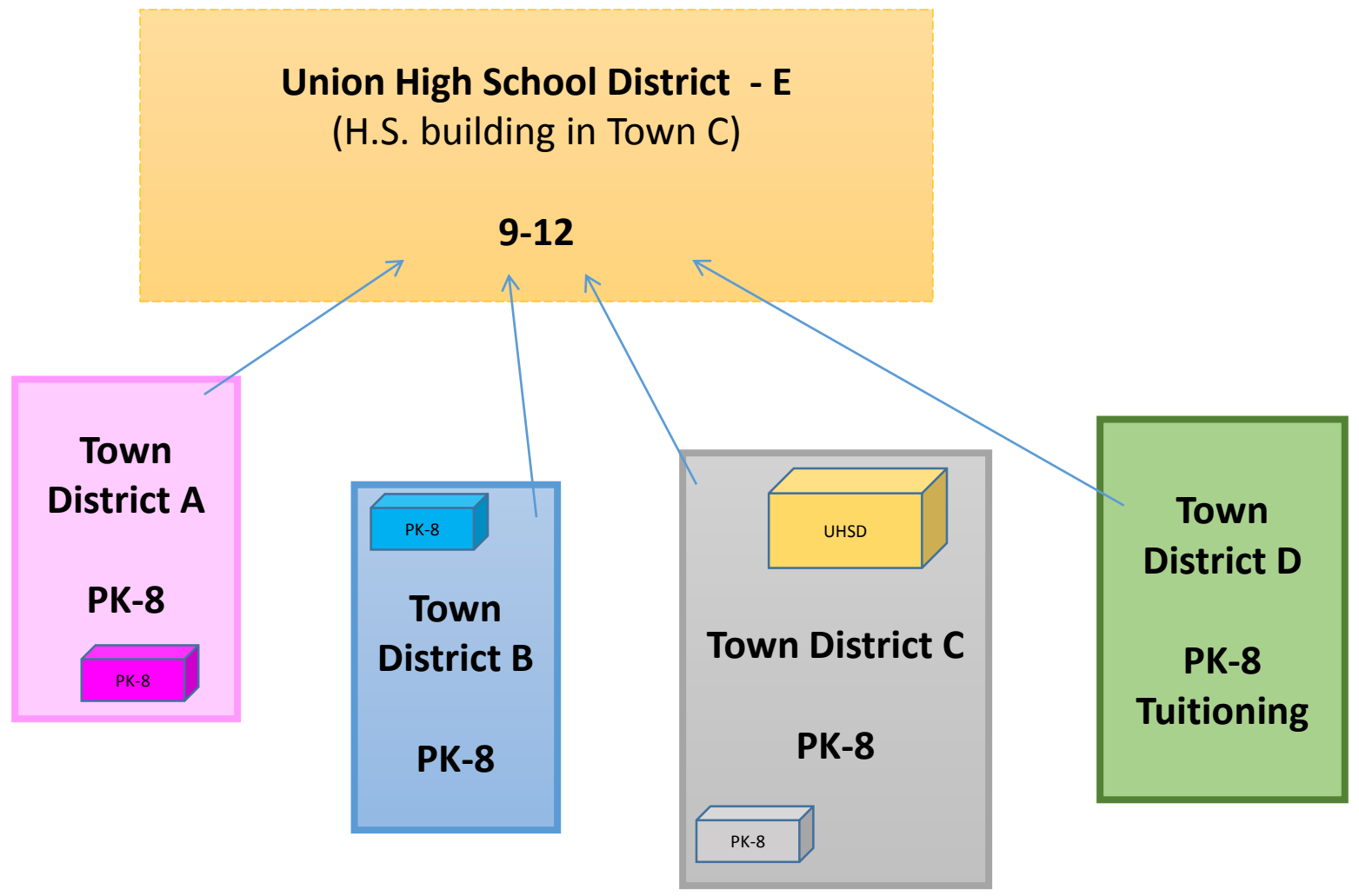
9-12

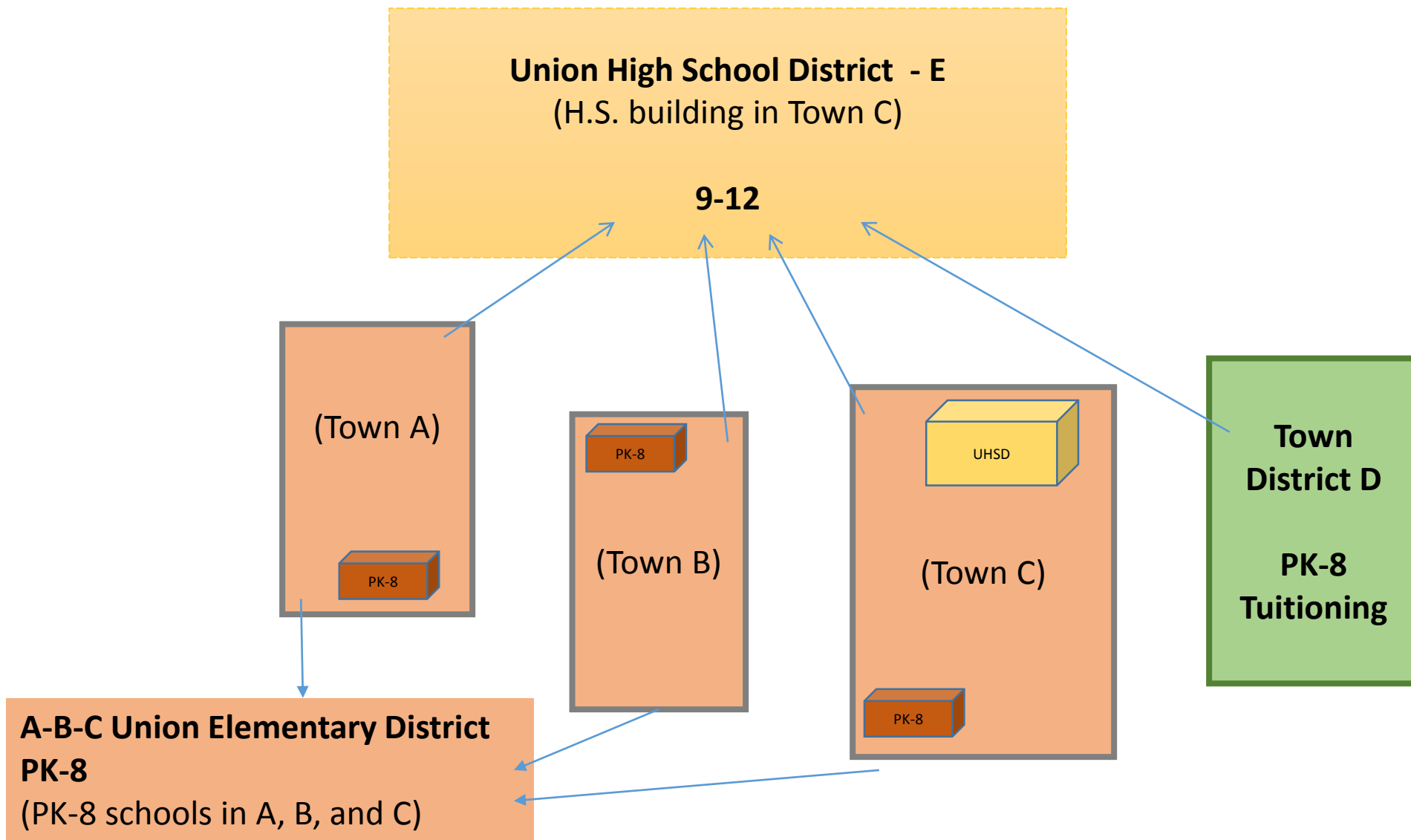


NMEDs within a MUUSD

6. Barnard Elementary (Windsor Central MUUSD)
7. Cambridge Elementary (Lamoille North MUUSD)
8. Huntington Elementary (Mount Mansfield MUUSD)
9. Orwell Elementary (Slate Valley MUUSD)
10. Windham Elementary (West River MUUSD)

UUSD with UN-Like Members





USDs with UN-Like Members

11. Bellows Falls UHSD & Athens; Grafton; Rockingham; Westminster
12. Hazen UHSD AND Lakeview UESD & Greensboro; Hardwick;
Stannard; Woodbury
13. Lake Region UHSD & Albany; Barton; Brownington; Glover; Irasburg;
Orleans; Westmore
14. Mount Anthony UHSD & Bennington; North Bennington; Pownal;
Shaftsbury; Woodford
15. North Country UHSD & 11 varied member elementary districts

Three Remaining Categories

- Single Town Districts – PK-12 Tuitioning
- Merger is “Possible” ... BUT
 - Is it “Practicable”?
 - Is retaining the current Structure “Best”?
- Not “Possible” or “Practicable”