

# NYSED's Regionalization Plan

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# Law vs. Regulation

REGIONALIZATION CANNOT GIVE  
NEW AUTHORITY TO THE DISTRICT  
(BOCES) SUPERINTENDENT

The role of the District Superintendent is defined by law. ([Ed-law §2215](#))

REGIONALIZATION CANNOT  
FORCE MERGERS

This is controlled by LAW, not Regulation.  
([Ed-law §2218](#))

For districts to merge, BOTH local Boards of Education would have to vote in favor  
AND  
TWO affirmative votes by EACH affected community are required

***LAW SUPERSEDES REGULATIONS***

# Local Boards of Education

The roles and responsibilities of a Board of Education are defined by LAW. ([Ed-law §1709](#))

“...to receive into said union free schools any pupils residing out of said district, and to regulate and establish the tuition fees of such nonresident pupils in the several departments of said schools.”

# Fact from Fiction

- Regionalization is:

**FACT!**

- A local conversation, facilitated by the District Superintendent of your Sole Supervisory District (BOCES).

**FACT!**

- Fostering ways local districts are, or can, enhance equitable access to educational opportunities for students in their schools.

**FACT!**

- A response to declining enrollment, timelines, and mandates imposed on NYSED and school districts externally that have been recently accelerated.

**FACT!**

- A way to facilitate locally developed plans that will inform state legislative, budget, and regulatory priorities, increasing the voice and input of districts and local communities in Albany.

# Fact from Fiction

- Regionalization is **NOT**:

**FALSE**

- About eroding local control.

**FALSE**

- About mergers, reorganization, or eliminating local school districts.

**FALSE**

- A way to force districts into taking actions or including things in their regionalization plans that they do not want to undertake.

**FALSE**

- Only about services and supports that the BOCES can provide, or a way to increase the power of a BOCES (i.e. “BOCES will govern local districts”).

**FALSE**

- A way to create new accountability systems.

**FALSE**

- About District Superintendents developing the plan.

# NYSED Frequently Asked Questions *(from NYSED's website)*

Will this initiative eliminate or consolidate local school districts? Will regional districts run by the BOCES be created?



The intention of this initiative is to charge local stakeholders with identifying support needs for creating and enhancing equitable student opportunity as well as solutions to persistent challenges, as well as make recommendations for how NYSED may shape budget and legislative priorities and/or policy or regulation changes. Regionalization in New York State is **not** reorganization, consolidation, mergers, annexation, or the creation of regional high schools.

**NYSED has no intention of forcing local school district reorganization or creating regional districts operated by BOCES.** Merger or consolidation of local school districts may only occur following several proscriptive statutory requirements. If a local school district is considering a voluntary merger or consolidation, they may contact NYSED's Office of Educational Management Services for information and resources.

# NYSED Frequently Asked Questions *(from NYSED's website)*

Does my school district have to participate?



All component districts of a Sole Supervisory District are required to participate in the regional conversations and planning process, including completion of their local reflections in the Strengths & Needs Tool. Non-BOCES component school districts, such as the Big Five school districts, are invited to participate in the conversations occurring in their neighboring region(s).

Upon completion of the regional plan, school districts need only pursue implementation of activities they have agreed or consented to for their local context in the final plan.

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

**As of November 6, NYSED added the following language to their website:**

“All school districts are required to participate in their local regionalization conversation. Upon completing the regional plan, school districts are only required to implement activities that they have agreed or consented to for their local context in the final plan. While we are currently in the 60 day public comment on the proposed regulation, at Regent Tilles’ request, we are reviewing the regulations language and considering modifications based on how it is being interpreted in the field.”



# Board of Regents

DECEMBER 9 & 10 2024

The Board of Regents has agreed to substantively change the original language to now underline no shared services will take place without local board of education approval. This is scheduled to take place at their next meeting on December 9 & 10.

# Letter from the Board of Education

Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner of Education  
Mr. David Frank, Assistant Commissioner  
Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor Board of Regents

Dear Commissioner Rosa, Mr. Frank and Dr. Young:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the recently announced Emergency Rule on Regionalization ("Emergency Rule") and its potential impact on our students, educators and community at large.

First and foremost, we believe that any significant changes and/or initiatives that affect our District should only be implemented with the explicit approval of our local Board of Education ("Board"). Our Board has a deep understanding of the unique needs, priorities and challenges of our students and community, and it is essential that we maintain local control over decisions that directly impact our educational system. We respectfully insist that no directives related to regionalization be imposed without the active engagement and consent of locally elected board of education.

The Board of Education is entrusted with the responsibility of making decisions that are in the best fiscal and educational interests of our students and community. It is crucial that any plan that affects our governance and operational structure be approved by our Board after thorough consideration and discussion.

# Letter from the Board of Education

We understand that NYSED officials have communicated that they will not take away local control; however, we are concerned that the letter of the law does not match this assurance. We have received mixed messages as to whether the State has the ability to change the language of the Emergency Rule or whether they affirmatively chose not to, which has led to uncertainty and fear in our community.

We recognize the State's commitment to addressing the challenges facing our educational system, and we appreciate the complexity of balancing resources and ensuring educational equity across New York State. We further recognize the importance of fostering greater efficiency and collaboration across districts, and we are committed to working together toward solutions that benefit all students. However, we urge NYSED to reconsider the Emergency Plan as currently

proposed. We insist that no plan be implemented without the specific approval of our Board of Education. Local control is of primary importance to our Board and its stakeholders.

Sincerely,

The Jericho Board of Education

# Letter to Community from Superintendent Hank Grishman...

The topic of regionalization has been widely discussed recently and I wanted to reassure our school community that this plan does not include plans to redistrict or merge districts. There has been great concern that regionalization might diminish local control. Please note that the New York State Department of Education, since its original adoption, has clarified in writing that any and all cooperative efforts will be strictly voluntary, and ultimately up to the local board of education. I have shared several times over the last month, we will not be required to share any of our resources with any other district, nor will we be forced to accept students from other school districts.

Please be assured that the superintendent, board of education and entire school community will vehemently oppose any threat to local control and any attempt to redirect our community's resources. We will never permit any taxpayer money from the Jericho school district to leave the community, nor will we permit any outside authorities to make decisions for our district.

Jericho is dedicated to continue to provide our students with an exceptional education and we will continue to look out for the best interests of our students, staff, and community.

Henry L. Grishman  
Superintendent of Schools