

ACT 73 (H.454): A TRANSFORMATIVE VERMONT EDUCATION BILL

WHAT IS ACT 73?

[Act 73](#), signed into law on July 1, 2025, is a major education transformation law in Vermont. It reshapes school governance, funding, and accountability to improve equity and efficiency. This sheet summarizes key provisions, important dates, community impacts, and specific effects for Orange East.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ORANGE EAST?

This bill has the potential for major changes in our school system, including:

- **District Consolidation:** Orange East may be merged into a larger regional district by 2028. This could affect school location for specific grades and potentially increase commute time for students.
 - **Local Control:** Consolidated districts or supervisory unions will have a single school board, eliminating changing the structure of local control.
 - **Funding Changes:** The new foundation funding formula and eventual statewide property tax will change how education is funded and budgeted.
 - **Education Standards:** The Secretary of Education will gain authority to enforce new education quality standards, which could change curriculum, programs, and graduation requirements.
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IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 10, 2025** – The school district redistricting task force will be meeting at **Oxbow High School** to discuss proposed district consolidation maps
 - **December 1, 2025** – The School District Redistricting Task Force must submit its proposed school district maps to the General Assembly.
 - **July 1, 2028** - The proposed deadline for the major reforms of Act 73 to go into effect, including the new consolidated school districts, the weighted student funding formula, the statewide property tax rate, and the homestead exemption
 - **Fiscal Year 2029** - Statewide property tax for education takes effect
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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Fill out our follow-up survey.** Your voice matters! Orange East boards are collecting community's thoughts and concerns on Act 73 and drafting a letter to the School District Redistricting Task Force in early October. Survey link: <https://forms.gle/tw8rUjALEVEC3o2cA>
- **Write to your local School District Redistricting Task Force members.** A list can be found at: <https://aoa.vermont.gov/school-district-redistricting-task-force>