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**JOHNSBURG CSD & MINERVA CSD**  
**REORGANIZATION DISCUSSION**

# What is reorganization?

School Districts “reorganize” when one or more existing districts join or merge to form a single, larger school district.



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# What is reorganization?

- Reorganization can mean:
  - Centralization
  - Annexation
  - Consolidation



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# Types of reorganization

## Centralization

- New school district is created that includes the entire area of the school districts to be merged.
- Can be established through the merger of any types of school districts except city school districts.
- The districts must share a boundary line.



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# Types of reorganization

## Annexation

- New district is not created. An annexed district is dissolved and becomes part of the annexing Central or Union Free school district.
- Common, Union Free and Central school districts can be annexed to a Central or Union Free school district if they share a boundary line.



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# Types of reorganization

## Consolidation of Union Free or Common School Districts

- Creates a new school district.
- Two or more Common districts may be consolidated as a single Common or as a single Union Free.
- Two or more Union Free districts may be consolidated as a single Union Free.
- A Union Free school district and a Common school district may be consolidated as a single Union Free.



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# Types of reorganization

## Consolidation of City School Districts

- The district to be consolidated will cease to exist and city will have responsibility for education of the whole area.
- School districts of any legal form outside the city district that share a border with the city district or with a district that is joining with the city district may be party to the reorganization.
- The resulting district becomes the “Enlarged City School District of...”



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# Why Reorganize?

- Larger Student/Tax Base + Reorganization Incentive Operating Aid:
  - More resources
  - More educational programs
  - More support services
  - More opportunities
- Reorganization Incentive Building Aid:
  - Upgrade and improve buildings, grounds, and other school facilities



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# What About “Tuitioning?”

- With voter approval, districts may contract with one or more neighboring school districts to educate one or more grade levels.
- No additional State Aid available on Educational Contracts.



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# Reorganization Process

## Step 1:

Boards of Education of affected districts hold joint meetings to determine whether to undergo a formal reorganization study.

BOCES District Superintendent is available as an informed, neutral party to provide information and support.



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# Reorganization Process

## Step 2:

If Boards of Education agree, a formal feasibility study on reorganization is commissioned.

School Districts are encouraged to apply for NY State Local Government Efficiency Grant(s) to offset costs associated with feasibility study.



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# Reorganization Process

## Step 3:

Boards of Education maintain transparency and hold multiple public information meetings to help ensure a fully informed community.

Meeting dates, times, and discussion topics are made available to all voters in each district. Questions are encouraged, honest answers are provided.



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# Reorganization Process

## Step 4:

Boards of Education hold non-binding “straw vote” to assess public support for reorganization.

The “Straw Vote” is not legally binding, but it is a necessary step in the public process. The Commissioner of Education will not order a statutory vote without clear evidence of public support.



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# Reorganization Process

## Step 5:

BOCES District Superintendent formally reports results of “straw vote” to the Commissioner of Education, indicating whether or not to proceed further.

A BOCES DS letter to the Commissioner of Education in support of reorganization formally starts the statutory (legal) reorganization process.



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# Feasibility Study Will Include:

- Current and projected enrollments
- Current and projected professional staffing plans
- Options for education programs and curricula
- Options for transportation
- Projected fiscal implications of the reorganization:  
State Aid, Expenditures, and Local Tax Impact



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# Options for Johnsburg and Minerva: Centralization or Annexation

CENTRALIZATION	ANNEXATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner issues an Order “laying out” a new school district.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner issues an Order to dissolve and annex one district to another.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible voters of each district <b>must</b> request a vote by petition for centralization to occur.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order is final after 60 days, <b><u>unless residents petition for a vote.</u></b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A second petition from each district is needed in order to vote in multiple locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote is not legally required and will only occur in districts that petition for a vote.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A majority in favor at each voting location is needed to form a new district.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A majority in favor at any voting district is needed to finalize the annexation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If vote is in favor of reorganization, a new district is formed, and a new Board is elected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If in favor of annexation, the annexed district is dissolved. No new Board is elected.</li> </ul>





# Reorganization Incentive Operating Aid (RIOA)

RIOA is based on 2006-07 State Operating Aid. A district's fixed dollar amount for RIOA calculations is found on the State Aid website:

- [2022-23 State Aid Projections Full Day K, Inst Mat, Op Reorg Incentive Aid](#)

Incentive Operating Aid is available for 14 years beginning with the first school year of operation as a reorganized district.



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# Reorganization Incentive Operating Aid

**40% of the combined amount is provided for 5 years,  
then reduced by 4% per year for the next 9 years:**

2006-07 Selected Operating Aid															
Minerva	\$141,599														
Johnsburg	\$862,983														
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14
School Year:		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38
% Aid:		40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	36%	32%	28%	24%	20%	16%	12%	8%	4%
Minerva:		\$56,640	\$56,640	\$56,640	\$56,640	\$56,640	\$50,976	\$45,312	\$39,648	\$33,984	\$28,320	\$22,656	\$16,992	\$11,328	\$5,664
Johnsburg:		\$345,193	\$345,193	\$345,193	\$345,193	\$345,193	\$310,674	\$276,155	\$241,635	\$207,116	\$172,597	\$138,077	\$103,558	\$69,039	\$34,519
<b>Total Incentive Aid for School Year:</b>		<b>\$401,833</b>	<b>\$401,833</b>	<b>\$401,833</b>	<b>\$401,833</b>	<b>\$401,833</b>	<b>\$361,650</b>	<b>\$321,466</b>	<b>\$281,283</b>	<b>\$241,100</b>	<b>\$200,916</b>	<b>\$160,733</b>	<b>\$120,550</b>	<b>\$80,367</b>	<b>\$40,183</b>



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# Reorganization Incentive Building Aid: New Buildings / Adding New Space

When adding new space, the highest district building aid ratio prior to reorganizing is increased by 30%, up to a maximum Aid Ratio of 95%. The Office of Facilities Planning calculates a **Maximum Cost Allowance for Building Aid**, based on projected enrollment after reorganizing, for all new construction projects. Costs above the MCA are not eligible for Building Aid.

The Minerva/Johnsburg Building Aid Ratio for approved new construction after reorganizing is **75.9%**



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# Reorganization Incentive Building Aid: Renovating Existing Facilities and Existing Capital Debt

- If the reorganized District renovates current buildings without adding new space, approved projects are aided at the enhanced Building Aid Ratio.
- Maximum Cost Allowance for existing buildings will not be reduced if no new space is added during renovation.
- Additionally, NYSED will adjust Building Aid payments for existing capital debt to match the higher of the two previous districts' building aid ratios (Aid Ratio is not enhanced).



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# Reorganization timeline example

- Winter 2023: - Boards resolve to undergo feasibility study
- Spring 2023: - Feasibility study begins in earnest
- Summer 2023: - Final draft of study is presented to Boards of Education
- Early Fall 2023: - Boards resolve to continue process
- Public meetings and info-sessions take place
- Straw Vote held in each district to gauge public support
- Late Fall 2023: - Statutory Vote takes place
- July 1, 2024:** - **Earliest date a new district can begin operating**



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Questions? Comments?



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# Thank you!!



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