

**Report "B" from the Rural Caucus on School Consolidation**  
**Update to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**  
 May 21, 2007 at 1:00 PM

Issue	Report "B" - Rural Caucus
1. Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Local districts prepared to consolidate will vote in January 2008 for implementation in July 2008. Fast Track for the Willing and Able</li> <li>* All remaining districts will vote in June 2008 for implementation in July 2009.</li> <li>* All new school units must be operational no later than July 1, 2009.</li> <li>* Beginning July 1, 2008 [FY 2009], a modification of \$36.5 million is made to General Purpose Aid that impacts all school districts to reflect administrative reorganization.</li> </ul>
2. Number of Districts	No maximum number of districts
3. Size of School Administrative Units.	Population density determines whether the district is required to have a minimum of 1200 students or 2500 students.
4. Governance	School administrative units and Super Unions
5. Ultimate approval of consolidated school administrative units	<p>Determined by Statute with clear criteria. The Commissioner will use the criteria to determine whether the proposed consolidated unit meets statutory requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The final determination to consolidate [partner with other districts] is made by voters.</li> </ul>
6. Exemption from Consolidation	Off-shore Island schools and Tribal schools
7. Issues not Addressed or that need definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Education of students from the Unorganized Territory, Incentives, and Penalties</li> <li>* High performing and administratively efficient districts that meet criteria for administrative fiscal efficiency and high academic performance.</li> </ul>
8. Collaboration	Collaboration among school units is encouraged at the earliest possible time, prior to consolidation and following consolidation. Collaboration to achieve savings above the \$36.5 million modification includes, but is not limited to: purchasing of equipment and supplies, purchasing for food and fuel, transportation of students and maintenance of vehicles, preparation of payroll, book-keeping, etc