

# Regional School Unit (RSU)/Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS) COMPARISON

ELEMENT	RSU	AOS
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single governing board</li> <li>• Allows for elected “ local school committees” that may perform duties/functions other than those assigned by statute to the RSU board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple governing boards</li> <li>• One AOS board with core functions and duties assigned by inter-local agreement</li> <li>• Multiple local school boards governing their own local school administrative units</li> </ul>
Inter-local Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Completed and approved before reorganization plan is submitted; submitted with reorganization plan</li> <li>○ Require approval of all boards/entities involved in agreement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Budget Validation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single comprehensive K-12 RSU budget               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Passed at unit-wide budget meeting</li> <li>○ Validated in municipal referenda votes</li> <li>○ Single (same question) referendum across all municipalities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple budgets</li> <li>• Each local school administration unit has individual budget for schools based on current structure (i.e. CSD, municipal, SAD)</li> <li>• AOS Budget for core functions and those assigned by inter-local agreement</li> <li>• Budget Validation Process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiple local school administrative unit budget meetings to adopt each local school administrative unit budget and AOS budget</li> <li>○ Multiple referenda to validate each budget and AOS budget. One town may have to validate as many as three budgets:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Municipal (K-8)</li> <li>▪ CSD (9-12)</li> <li>▪ AOS (K-12 share of AOS costs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ELEMENT	RSU	AOS
<b>Revenue/Budget: GPA/EPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State government treats as one fiscal unit for calculating:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EPS expenditure levels</li> <li>○ Subsidy (GPA)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Note: Treatment under Federal grants Will depend on whether the “LEAs” or “schools” are the eligible entity per the language of the federal statute/regulations.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State government treats as one fiscal unit for calculating:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EPS expenditure levels</li> <li>○ Subsidy (GPA)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inter-local agreement needed for determining allocation of costs within the AOS, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Subsidy (GPA)</li> <li>○ EPS costs</li> <li>○ Over-EPS costs</li> <li>○ AOS costs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Note: Treatment under Federal grants Will depend on whether the “LEAs” or “schools” are the eligible entity per the language of the federal statute/regulations.)</p>
<b>Cost Sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All costs are shared based on agreed-upon formula</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shares the following costs based on agreed-upon formula: Costs for system administration, special education, transportation facilities and maintenance, business functions costs and any functions at the AOS level per inter-local agreement</li> <li>• All other costs remain in the local school administrative units</li> </ul>
<b>Consolidation of Core Functions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Superintendent</b></li> <li>– <b>Business Functions</b></li> <li>– <b>Special Education</b></li> <li>– <b>Transportation</b></li> <li>– <b>Budget</b></li> <li>– <b>Reporting</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single unit of administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple units of administration:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AOS – administrative functions that must be operated at the AOS level are system administration, special education administration, transportation administration, business functions including accounting, reporting, payroll, financial management, purchasing insurance and auditing. Also, any administrative function assigned to the AOS in the inter-local agreement.</li> <li>○ Local school administrative unit – any other administrative functions not the responsibility of the AOS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Consolidation of Core Functions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a plan to achieve one consistent contract across the RSU for each employee group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Required to be achieved by 2012</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a timeline to achieve consistent contracts across the AOS for each employee group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To be achieved by using inter-local agreements</li> <li>○ No deadline in law</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ELEMENT	RSU	AOS
<p>Consolidation of Core Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction: Educational Impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guarantees one unified curriculum for Pre-K – 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unit coordination</li> <li>▪ Planning for aligned instruction</li> <li>▪ Assessment district-wide</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One core curriculum required</li> <li>• Separate town/unit-based school structure may result in greater differences in educational programs/services</li> <li>• Procedures for standardized testing &amp; assessment aligned to Maine <i>Learning Results</i> (MLR) required</li> </ul>
<p>Consolidation of Core Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– School Calendars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSU board established one common school calendar, subject to local variations permitted by the RSU board</li> </ul> <p>Please see Q&amp;A on this topic on the reorganization website. (<a href="http://www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml">www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml</a>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AOS board establishes consistent school calendars for all schools in the AOS</li> </ul> <p>Please see Q&amp;A on this topic on the reorganization website. (<a href="http://www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml">www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml</a>)</p>
<p>Consolidation of Core Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– District Policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSU board adopts policies, local school committees may adopt policies not in conflict with RSU board policies</li> </ul> <p>Please see Q&amp;A on this topic on the reorganization website. (<a href="http://www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml">www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml</a>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AOS board adopts consistent policies for all schools in the AOS</li> </ul> <p>Please see Q&amp;A on this topic on the reorganization website. (<a href="http://www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml">www.maine.gov/education/reorg/qa.shtml</a>)</p>
<p>Consolidation of Facilities and Maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operated as a single unit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functions may be consolidated at:</li> <li>• AOS level OR</li> <li>• Local school administrative unit level</li> <li>• Inter-local agreement to spell out how functions are shared, who is responsible for what</li> </ul>
<p>Special Education Operation Costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Ed costs:</li> <li>• Operates as a single unit: Special Ed is included in the RSU budget</li> <li>• RSU budget covers the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administration costs</li> <li>○ Program costs including out-of-district costs</li> <li>○ Staff costs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Ed costs:</li> <li>• Each local school administrative unit operates as an individual unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special Education costs included in AOS Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administrative costs</li> <li>▪ Any costs assigned to AOS level by inter-local agreement</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Local school administrative units budgets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Program costs including out-of-district costs</li> <li>▪ Staff Costs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A unitary structure builds in collaboration/cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration may be built into the inter-local agreement</li> </ul>

<b>ELEMENT</b>	<b>RSU</b>	<b>AOS</b>
<b>Economies of Scale</b> + Shared staff + Shared services + Shared programs + Extra curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single structure allows for identification of opportunities for savings across whole RSU whenever and wherever they occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economies of scale opportunities possible at the AOS level</li> <li>• Inter-local agreements to implement shared services &amp; savings among the schools at all levels</li> </ul>
<b>Student Placement Flexibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One RSU allows flexibility to place students in schools within the unit that best meet their needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student transfer &amp; associated costs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need to be addressed by Inter-local agreements</li> <li>○ <u>May</u> need to be considered in cost sharing formula</li> </ul> </li> </ul>