



Time Sensitive Decisions for Supervisory Union and District Boards in H.955

CESA Formation and Initial Organization:

H.955 requires the establishment of Cooperative Educational Service Areas (CESAs) across the state. Within 30 days of passage (the date the Governor signs the bill), each member supervisory union or supervisory district board must appoint a representative to serve on its regional CESA board. The representative may be a current board member, the superintendent, or the supervisory union/supervisory district's designee.

Within 45 days of passage, the superintendent from the member district with the highest aggregate average daily membership (ADM) is required to convene the initial meeting of the CESA board. At that meeting, the board will organize itself and elect a chair and other officers as necessary.

Once established, CESA boards will be responsible for providing educational programs, services, facilities, and professional and other staff that, in their discretion, best serve the needs of their members. CESAs are expected to play a significant role in facilitating shared services, regional collaboration, and future governance discussions.

During a supervisory union/supervisory district board meeting, the chair should request a motion to appoint someone to this position -- "I move that this board appoint [name and title] to represent [supervisory union/supervisory district] as a board member of the [region] CESA."

Merger Study Groups:

H.955 also establishes a statewide merger study process. By September 1, 2026, regional facilitators will be hired to organize and support the merger study groups. Facilitators are required to have experience and knowledge of Vermont's public education system and will assist with meeting facilitation, public engagement, and community outreach.

By September 15, 2026, each school district board must appoint at least one current board member to serve on its assigned merger study group, subject to the participation requirements contained in 16 V.S.A. §§ 706 and 707.

Merger study groups are required to hold their initial meetings no later than October 15, 2026. These groups will examine the educational, financial, operational, and governance implications of potential district mergers and will ultimately develop recommendations for consideration by school boards, communities, and the State Board of Education.

During a board meeting, the chair should request a motion to appoint someone to this position -- "I move that this board appoint [name(s) of board member(s)] to represent [district name] as a member(s) of the Group [number] merger committee."