

**State Board of Education
September 20, 2011
Item F**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Commissioner's Office

ITEM: Will the State Board find that the proposed formation of the Fairfax/Fletcher Regional Education District is in the best interests of the students, the state, and the school districts involved, and will the State Board therefore vote to approve the attached report of the Fairfax/Fletcher Regional Education District Planning Committee, as agreed upon on August 10, 2011?

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. § 706c; Act 153 of 2010

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board find that the proposed formation of the Fairfax/Fletcher Regional Education District is in the best interests of the students, the state, and the school districts involved, and that the State Board therefore vote to approve the attached report of the Fairfax/Fletcher Regional Education District Planning Committee, as agreed upon August 10, 2011.

Based on the letter provided by the Chair of the Georgia School District Board requesting that Georgia remain in the Franklin West Supervisory Union with the RED and the expressed support of the RED study committee for that structure, it is recommended that the State Board continue to include the Georgia School District within the Franklin West Supervisory Union.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At its meeting on November 16, 2010, the State Department of Education waived the requirements of Act 153 of 2010, § 3 (a) that Regional Education Districts “shall have an average daily membership of at least 1,250 or result from the merger of at least four districts, or both.”

The Franklin West Supervisory Union currently consists of the Fletcher, Fairfax and Georgia School Districts and the Bellows Free Academy Union District. The formation of the Regional Education District would result in the elimination of the Fletcher and Fairfax School Districts and the Bellows Free Academy Union District and the formation of a single entity with one common board and district administration. The newly formed district would provide the students with a fuller and more coordinated array of alternatives for their K-12 education.

COST IMPLICATIONS: The primary justification for this Regional Education District is an improved educational experience for students. Potential savings in administrative costs, more efficient distribution of students and more flexible use of staff are expected.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Vaughn Altemus; Mark Oettinger