

**Process for Receiving the Consulting Services Reimbursement Grant
(Revised 12/15/10)**

Sec. 4(e) of Act 153 Of 2010 provides reimbursement for legal and consulting services necessary for the analysis and report incurred by the study committee established under 16 VSA § 706 and Sec. 3 of Act 153. Sec. 3 of Act 153 prescribes the requirements for the formation of a Regional Education District (RED). To receive the reimbursement please follow the steps below.

1. Submit a letter informing us of the formation of a merger study committee established under 16 VSA § 706 and Sec. 3 of Act 253 along with a copy of the planning committee's budget. Please note that § 706a requires a vote in the participating districts if the budget is more than \$25,000.
2. Upon receipt of the study committee budget we will set up a reimbursement file that will allow us to process payments. Once done we will acknowledge that we are ready to accept invoices.
3. Once you receive our acknowledgement, please submit copies of invoices no more than quarterly within ten days after the following dates: December 1, March 1, and June 1. Please provide a cover memo on your letterhead that states you are submitting invoices pursuant Sec. 4(e) of Act 153 of 2010 and provide the total for all of the invoices enclosed.
4. Submit the information to the Business Office, Vermont Department of Education, 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501.
5. Once received we will process a payment of one half the total of the invoices up to a maximum of \$10,000.
6. When completed, submit the study committee's report required in 16 VSA § 706b to the Commissioner's office. Upon receipt of the report we will submit the balance owed up to a maximum amount of \$20,000. The Act limits invoice reimbursement to \$20,000.

If you have any question please call Bill Talbott at (802) 828-0470.

**Clarification on Eligibility for the Consulting Services Reimbursement Grant
Provided in Act 153**

This is to clarify who is eligible for receiving the consulting services reimbursement grant authorized under Sec. 4(e) of Act 153 of 2010. Sec. 2 of that act provides:

SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

(a) Program created. There is created a school district merger incentive program under which the incentives outlined in Sec. 4 of this act shall be available to each new unified union school district created pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act and to each new district created under that section by the merger of districts that provide education by paying tuition.

Sec. 4(e) creates the consulting services reimbursement grant and is therefore only available to 16 VSA § 706 study committees established to study the advisability of forming unified union school districts or merging districts that provide education by paying tuition and meeting the requirements of sec. 3. Such a new district is referred to in the Act as a Regional Education District or RED. Sec. 3 requires, the new RED to have an average daily membership of at least 1250 or result from merging four districts, or have received a waiver from the State Board of Education. It also requires, among other things, the RED to provide elementary and secondary education for its students.

The extension of the sunset date for the facilitation grant in Sec. 5 (up to \$150,000) is available after voter approval of the establishment of any new union, unified union or interstate district. This grant had a sunset date of June 30, 2010 and sec. 5 extended the sunset to June 30, 2014. To be eligible for this grant, such district creations do not need to be REDs and are not subject to the limitations in Sec. 2 but the grant can not be paid until voters have approved the new district.

Act 153 can be viewed at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/acts.cfm?Session=2010>.