Sec. 9 Proposal Process Overview

- **January-May 2018:**
  - Secretary of Education and Agency staff review all Sec. 9 proposals and other information (e.g., Agency data, community input, earlier merger proposals, etc.)
  - School Board has “conversations” about proposal with Secretary
    - The Agency will call / send an e-mail to schedule these meetings
    - Meetings will occur between now and May 1
    - Meetings will occur at the Agency’s Offices in Barre
    - Because the Secretary must look at each proposal locally, regionally, and on a statewide basis, it is doubtful that the Secretary will be able to give a final answer during these meetings about whether the proposal will or will not be incorporated into the proposed Statewide Plan
  - School Board has opportunities to supplement its proposal
  - State Board of Education (SBE) also has copies of all Sec. 9 proposals and each SBE member begins reviewing them

- **June 1, 2018** – Secretary presents proposed statewide plan that may incorporate a School Board’s Sec. 9 proposal in full, in part, or not at all

- **June-October 2018:**
  - SBE reviews all Sec. 9 proposals and other information (e.g., Agency data, community input, earlier merger proposals, etc.)
  - School Board presents testimony to SBE and answers SBE’s questions about proposal
    - The SBE has tentatively decided to receive testimony on Sec. 9 proposals at its July, August, and September meetings
    - It has also tentatively decided, in concept, to divide the state into three regions so that it can schedule those three meetings to occur in each of the three regions
    - Because the SBE must look at each proposal locally, regionally, and on a statewide basis, it is doubtful that it will be able to give a final answer during these three regional meetings about whether the proposal will or will not be incorporated into the final Statewide Plan
  - School Board has opportunities to supplement its proposal

- **November 30 – SBE issues the Final Statewide Plan that merges districts and redraws SU boundaries to the extent necessary to achieve sustainable governance structures capable of meeting/exceeding the Act 46 Goals of equity, excellence, and efficiency – the Final Plan may incorporate School Board’s Sec. 9 proposal in full, in part, or not at all**
  - The SBE must: discuss each proposal; give instructions to the Agency regarding what it wants to include in a draft final Plan; review and potentially amend the draft version of its Plan (a public record); and vote on the final Plan prior to the November 30 deadline for issuing the plan – as a result, School Boards will have an indication of the SBE’s actions before the SBE issues the final Statewide Plan

Revised: January 25, 2018