

## RSU/AOS COMPARISON

ELEMENT	RSU	AOS	CONCERNS
<b>Governance</b>	<p>Single governing body with common vision, purpose; one man, one vote apportionment; single budget validation referendum across all towns;</p> <p>Allows for local school committees – may perform duties, functions other than those assigned to the RSU Board (advisory)</p>	<p>Nine governing boards, one for each town, and one AOS Board; unknown number of shared services/functions governed by the AOS board</p>	<p>Possible increased costs &amp; complexities involved with AOS structure. Supt working with &amp; reporting to 9 boards. Supt must be present at all board meetings</p>
<b>Expenditure Budget: Development/Approval</b>	<p>One comprehensive K-12 RSU budget passed at district-wide budget meeting, validated in one district-wide single-question referendum.</p>	<p>Each town has its own budget for K-12 or K-8 schools, plus its share of the system administration costs. Eight town budget meetings to adopt their K-12 or K-8 budget + their system admin share. All budget referenda held on same day, each involving two questions (local budget &amp; AOS budget)</p>	<p>More complicated &amp; costly budget process, duplication of effort.</p> <p>If one town rejects their budget – possible impact on finalizing the comprehensive AOS budget.</p>
<b>Budget oversight/management</b>	<p>Responsibility of the superintendent under the direction of the RSU Board</p>	<p>Responsibility of the superintendent under the direction of nine separate boards, all governed by a number of interlocal agreements about what resources are shared and what is unique to each budget.</p>	<p>Very skillful business management will be required in the AOS, and very likely more personnel needed to keep track all expenditures details.</p>
<b>Facilities ownership and oversight</b>	<p>Responsibility of the superintendent under the direction of the RSU board. Facilities may be owned by the municipalities’, or be transferred to the RSU. If held by municipalities, agreements regarding use, maintenance, liability etc. will be necessary.</p>	<p>Interlocal agreements would define the ownership of the property and the financial responsibilities for maintenance, liability, etc. – all spelled out for each separate town &amp; its property.</p>	

<b>Revenue budget: GPA/EPS</b>	State/Federal gov't treats system as one fiscal unit – for calculating EPS expenditure levels, subsidy, & federal grants, ex. Title 1	State/Federal gov't treats as one fiscal unit – for calculating EPS expenditure levels, subsidy, & federal grants ex. Title 1.  Interlocal agreements needed for determining how to allocate GPA, EPS costs, over-EPS (additional local) funds within the AOS	Tracking costs & shared allocations for multiple units within AOS complex.  No designation of funds for towns' schools within the AOS from DoE to guide local budgeting. Federal funds will be calculated & allocated based on federal rules, not local cost sharing rules; could have great local budget impact
<b>Collective Bargaining Agreements</b>	One unit, 3 years (2012) to bring separate contracts into one common contract for each employee group	Inter-local agreement needed in the plan to make contracts “consistent”, with a timeline to do this (no deadline in law)	Lack of clarity regarding what “consistent” contracts means.
<b>District Policies</b>	RSU board adopts policies for all school in the RSU	“Consistent” policies are to be adopted by various school boards in an AOS	“Consistent” – meaning?
<b>School Calendars</b>	RSU board established one common school calendar	“Consistent” school calendars must be put in place in an AOS	What does “consistent” calendars mean?
<b>Cost Sharing</b>	All above-EPS costs are shared based on agreed upon formula that is articulated in the RSU Plan, with a description of the process to be used to adjust it in the future.	System administration, special ed, transportation administration, and business functions costs shared based on agreed upon formula; elementary, middle & high school costs remain in the local towns' budgets. Interlocal agreements will have to address how the funds are distributed within the AOS	

<p><b>Economies of scale</b>                  + <b>Shared staff</b>                  + <b>Shared services</b>                  + <b>Shared programs</b>                  + <b>Extra curricular</b></p>	<p>Single structure allows for identification of opportunities for savings across whole RSU whenever and wherever they occur</p>	<p>Economies of scale opportunities possible at the system level; Inter-local agreements may be necessary to implement shared services &amp; savings among the individual schools at all levels.</p>	<p>Separate school budgets in each town may present barriers to the system's ability to use resources flexibly.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction: educational impact</b></p>	<p>Guarantees one unified curriculum, Pre-K – 12, with district coordination/planning for aligned instruction, assessment district-wide</p>	<p>One unified curriculum required; separate town-based school structure may result in greater differences in educational programs/services. Procedures for standardized testing &amp; assessment aligned to MLR required.</p>	<p>Development and implementation of a consistent educational program more difficult in more decentralized district structure</p>
<p><b>Student Placement Flexibility</b></p>	<p>One RSU allows flexibility to place students in schools within the district that best meet their needs</p>	<p>Inter-local agreements will have to address student transfer and associated costs – may need to be considered in cost sharing formula</p>	
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p>	<p>A unitary structure builds in the expectation for collaboration/cooperation from day one</p>	<p>Hopefully collaboration will occur, but it is not built into the structure</p>	
<p><b>Special Education operation</b></p>	<p>Operates as a single unit. Special ed program costs in the comprehensive district budget</p>	<p>Special Ed admin is consolidated at district level. Special Ed programming &amp; staff costs in local town budgets</p>	<p>If program costs are at local budget level, single town could have to absorb high costs of in-out of district placements. Costs could vary widely on annual basis.</p>
<p><b>Interlocal agreements</b></p>	<p>Not required</p>	<p>Completed and approved inter-local agreements required before reorganization plan is submitted</p>	<p>Inter-local agreements require approval of all boards/entities involved in each one.</p> <p>Question about whether or not this complex time-consuming process could be completed prior to January 30, 2009</p>
<p><b>Consolidation of system administration, special education &amp; transportation</b></p>	<p>All of these functions operate as a single unit</p>	<p>Inter-local agreement needed to spell out how functions would be shared, who was responsible for what</p>	<p>Flexibility, efficient use of resources a concern. Who owns the busses? Who maintains them? Who drives</p>

<b>administration, business administration</b>			them? Who pays for the drivers? Etc. etc.
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