

# ***“The NEED for the Northwest Educational School District”***

*~ A One Page Synopsis of Key Points ~*

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**Background** - MSAD 13 (Bingham), MSAD 12 (Jackman) and School Union 60 (Greenville) are the three units comprising the NESD. All three of these units are small, isolated units found within Northern Somerset and Northern Piscataquis Counties. Each unit shares the same cultural backgrounds and beliefs around the importance of small schools for the Economic Development of their respective regions. Each unit also shares the same educational beliefs around the importance of community connections within our respective educational systems. These three school systems have been working with one another over the past year and 1/2 to develop ways to create cost efficiencies and reduce taxes within their respective School Administrative Units. Due to our unique geographic situations, we feel strongly that it is not possible to meet the 1200 minimum student requirement.

We would like to ask that Special Legislation be considered to allow our three units to do the following:

- **Create and implement** a plan to form the NESD as a **new RSU** with LESS THAN the 1200 minimum student number. (We have done a cost analysis and can immediately show cost savings in excess of \$300,000.00).
- **Create and implement** a plan to form the NESD as a **new RSU** and allow for us to negotiate a cost-sharing formula within our region to mitigate the cost shifting that would occur under the EPS cost sharing percentages. This new cost sharing would be created and approved by the RPC for our Region as part of the planning process.
- **Create and implement** a plan to form the NESD as a **new RSU** AND incorporate the Unorganized Territories found within our boundaries into part of our plan. Currently there are 17 Unorganized Territories with approximately 70 UT students found within our respective boundaries. We would begin this process by simply allowing our region to become the agents servicing the UT's. We would develop a cost sharing formula for UT within our Region which could serve as a state model.

**We feel our request is unique** and should be supported for the following reasons:

1. We are trying to acknowledge our geographic isolation and work to meet the goals of the new Regionalization law.
2. **Our Bill is distinctive in that it is attempting to help the state address the unique aspects of Unorganized Territories.** We feel that we may be able to “pilot” various ways to address UT issues that could be used across the state to create more equitable funding situations for all taxpayers.