

School District Reorganization

Brief Outline of Process



Reorganization of Districts



Education Code § 35511 defines “reorganization” as either:

- **Forming a new district through one of several methods (see next slide)**
- **Transferring territory, including all or part of one district to another**



Reorganization of Districts

Ways of forming a new district include any or a combination of:

- **Dissolving two or more existing districts of the same kind to create a new one from the entire original territory**
- **Forming one or more new districts from parts of one or more existing districts**
- **Unifying districts (elementary and high school)**
- **Deunifying a district**
 - Includes creating a new high school district with two or more component districts

Reorganization of Districts



Number of California school districts

†

Year	Districts	
1932	3,579	
1963-64	1,535	Unification laws passed
1971-72	1,067	Last mandated unification election
1979-80	1,042	Voluntary reorganization laws passed
1994-95	1,001	
2004-05	979	
2009-10	963	



Reorganization of Districts

Five-step process

■ 1. Petition

For transfer of territory, dissolving districts and/or creating new districts:

Initiated and signed by 25% of property owners **OR**
by a majority of board members in affected districts

For unification:

Initiated and signed by 10% of qualified voters **OR**
via resolution by a majority of board members



Reorganization of Districts

Five-step process

■ 2. Approval by County Superintendent

Education Code § 35704

Examine Petition

Determines sufficiency of signatures

Transmits to County Committee and State Board of Education

■ 3. County Committee convenes

Education Code § 35705.5 & 35706

Holds public hearing

Submits notice to Local Agency Formation Commission

Studies impact and reviews conditions and criteria

Makes recommendation to State Board of Education



Reorganization of Districts

Five-step process

■ 4. State Board of Education reviews petition*

Holds public hearings

Approves or disapproves petition

* BUT see next slide

■ 5. County Superintendent calls for election

If approved in election, reorganization takes effect on the following July 1

Reorganization of Districts

*** State Board does not review Petition under Education Code § 35708 & 35710(b) if:**

- **County Superintendent grants authority to County Committee to approve Petition**
- **Governing Board of each affected district consents to the Petition**
- **Secretary of the County Committee enters into an agreement with the affected districts to share the cost of the CEQA review**

BUT, if the County Committee rejects the Petition, it is transmitted to the State Board

Reorganization of Districts

Timeline from petition to reorganization

Signatures gathered or board resolution passed	90 days
Petition verified by County Superintendent	30 days
County Committee hearing held	60 days
County Committee studies petition	120+ days
State Board of Education conducts hearing *	120+ days
Election order is delivered	35 days
County Clerk prepares for voting process	120 days
From November election to July 1 effective date	235 days

Total = 810 days or 2.2 years ... or longer

* This step may not be required



Reorganization of Districts

Conditions for County Committee/State approval

- **Will enroll an adequate number of students**
- **Is organized based on community identity**
- **Equitably divides property & facilities**
- **Does not promote racial or ethnic discrimination**
- **Does not increase costs to the state**

more ...



Reorganization of Districts

Conditions for County Committee/State approval

- Promotes sound education, doesn't disrupt programs
- Does not increase school facility costs
- Is not designed to increase property values
- Promotes sound fiscal management



Consolidation studies have not reached consensus.

Some districts realize financial benefits, while others never see the hoped-for fiscal savings.

