

Proposed Alternative Plan for Durham, Freeport, Pownal (SAD-62) School Districts

This document outlines an alternative plan for the operation of the Durham, Freeport, and Pownal (SAD-62) school districts. The purpose of this document is to provide a high level overview of the plan specifics without the legal jargon required in the plan document to be submitted to the state.

- I. **Independent School Districts:** The three districts will continue to operate as independent school districts. Governance and budgeting will be controlled by the governance structures currently in place according to the laws and customs of each town.
- II. **Tuition of High School Students:** The three communities will negotiate tuition contracts for high school students in Durham and Pownal to attend Freeport High School. The duration and terms of these contracts will be negotiated by the respective school committees.
- III. **InterTown School Committee (ITSC):** The three communities will form a InterTown School Committee comprising an equal number of members from each community's school committees. The responsibilities for the InterTown School Committee will include:
 - a. *High School Advisory Responsibility:* The ITSC will be responsible for reviewing policy and advising the Freeport School Committee on issues pertaining to the operation and policies of Freeport High School.
 - b. *Curriculum Coordination:* The ITSC will be responsible for overseeing coordination of curriculum between the three towns to maximize the educational opportunities.
 - c. *Shared Services:* The ITSC will actively examine opportunities for the three towns to save money by contracting services together. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Superintendent Services
 - ii. Nutritional Services
 - iii. Special Education Services
 - iv. Transportation Services
 - v. Building Maintenance Services
 - vi. Technology Services
 - vii. Energy Purchasing
 - d. *Other opportunities:* The ITSC will actively examine and evaluate other opportunities to achieve efficient educational excellence.

Discussion

This plan achieves the desired cost savings by putting into place a formal mechanism between the three towns for coordinating activities, eliminating duplication, and achieving critical mass in purchasing and other negotiations.

Because the communities are not joined at the hip, this plan would accommodate traditions such as school choice to be preserved at the towns' discretion.

The communities have experience in implementing this type of relationship. Pownal and Freeport have a long standing relationship of shared services. This experience will be leveraged and expanded under the formal structure of the ITSC.

This plan encourages further organic consolidation over time as the towns work closely together.