

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE TOWNS OF BRADFORD, NEWBURY, NEW LONDON, SPRINGFIELD, SUTTON, WARNER, AND WILMOT

As Amended March 8, 1997

1. The School Districts of Bradford, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot, shall be combined to form a cooperative school district which shall be named Kearsarge Regional School District.
2. There shall be nine members of the school board of the Kearsarge Regional School District. The voters of each pre-existing district shall be entitled to elect qualified voters of their district as members of the school board at the organization meeting and thereafter to elect their successors, by voting separately and using a distinctive ballot at the organization meeting and at later annual cooperative school district meetings. The pre-existing districts of New London and Warner shall be entitled to two members each on the school board, with one member each from Bradford, Newbury, Springfield, Sutton, and Wilmot.

The members of the cooperative school board who are elected and qualified at the organization meeting shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected at the annual meeting of the cooperative school district held in the years indicated below:

Bradford	1 member	1969
Newbury	1 member	1967
New London	1 member	1968
	1 member	1969
Springfield	1 member	1967
Sutton	1 member	1968
Warner	1 member	1969
	1 member	1967
Wilmot	1 member	1968

All members of the school board shall be elected for three year terms except those members elected at the organization meeting. The members of the school board shall assume office at the close of the organization meeting and thereafter at the close of the annual meeting.

All members of the school board shall be elected by the use of the non-partisan ballot system under RSA 59

3. The Kearsarge Regional School District shall be responsible for grades K-12. Elementary schools, grades 1-6, shall be maintained in each of the pre-existing districts. If the school board feels it is the best interests of education and wished to close or consolidate any elementary school in any pre-existing district, it may do so only with the approval, by ballot, of the voters of the pre-existing district in which the school will be closed. Kindergarten centers may be made available as determined by the school board.

A new elementary school shall be constructed in New London. A new elementary school shall be constructed in Wilmot. The present Simonds Free High School in Warner shall be converted to elementary school use. Additions will be made to the present New London School complex to use as a 7-12 Junior and Senior High School.

4. The Kearsarge Regional School District shall acquire all the property, including equipment, of the seven pre-existing districts, with the exception of the Warner Ski Tow facility. Such property shall be conveyed to the Kearsarge Regional School District in accordance with the provisions of RSA 195:9. The following is the property that will be acquired by the Kearsarge Regional School District:

Bradford	Bradford Central School
Newbury	Newbury Central School
New London	New London Central School
Springfield	Springfield Memorial School
Sutton	Sutton Central School
Warner	Simonds Free High School
	Warner Graded School
	Simonds Free High School Athletic Field
	School Street House
Wilmot	Wilmot Center School
	Wilmot Flat School

5. Beginning with the 1995/96 fiscal year, the total sum of the operating and capital expenses of the Kearsarge Regional School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned among the towns of the District as follows: sixty percent (60%) on the average daily membership of the pupils in approved public schools residing in each pre-existing district of the regional school district during the second preceding year as determined by the State Department of Education, and forty percent (40%) on the equalized valuation as most currently available as determined by the State Department of Revenue Administration.

6. A schedule of payments based on the sum of the respective shares of the pre-existing districts for operating expenses and capital expenses shall be established from time to time by the school board and the selectmen of the several towns.
7. The Kearsarge Regional School District shall assume all the indebtedness of the pre-existing districts which is outstanding at the date of operating responsibility.
8. The State Foundation Aid to which each pre-existing district would be entitled if it were not part of the cooperative school district, shall be credited to that pre-existing district's share of the total operating budget. The State Building Aid which may be available to the Kearsarge Regional School District shall be applied to reduce the total operating budget prior to the apportionment of costs under the provisions of Article 5. Any other school aid which may be available to the Kearsarge Regional School District shall be applied to reduce the total operating budget prior to the apportionment of costs under provisions of Article 5, unless otherwise provided by law.
9. All trust funds held by the pre-existing districts shall be held and applied to such pre-existing district as the terms of the trust indicate.

10. The Kearsarge Regional School District shall provide transportation for pupils in grades 1 through 12, consistent with RSA 189:6, 189:8, and 189:9. Until all pupils in grades 9-12 (with the exception of those enrolled under the provisions of Article 12) attend the regional Jr.-Sr. High School, the present high school transportation policies of the pre-existing districts shall be continued. The school board of the district will be empowered to make modifications of this article with respect to kindergarten transportation.
11. The school property and building of the Kearsarge Regional School District may be used for non-educational purposes as they are presently being used, and for such other civic and town purposes as determined by the regional school board.
12. Grade 11 and 12 pupils from the pre-existing districts of the Kearsarge Regional School District attending school outside said district as of September, 1967, may continue in the public high schools they are attending. The school district will pay tuition for students enrolled under this article, but this shall not include transportation to these schools.
13. The date of operating responsibility of the Kearsarge Regional School District as provided in RSA 195: 5 shall be July 1, 1967.
14. "Except as provided in Article 14A,"

These articles of agreement may be amended by the Kearsarge Regional School District, consistent with the provisions of RSA 95:18 (III) (i), except that no amendment shall be effective, unless the question of adopting such amendment is submitted at a cooperative school district meeting to the voters of the district voting by ballot with the use of the checklist after reasonable opportunity for debate in open meeting, and unless two-thirds of the voters of the district who are present and voting shall vote in favor of adopting such amendment. Furthermore, no amendment of these articles shall be considered except at an annual meeting of the cooperative school district and unless the text of such amendment is included in an appropriate article in the warrant for such meeting. It shall be the duty of the school board to hold a public hearing concerning the adoption of any amendment to these articles of agreement at least ten days before such annual meeting and to cause notice of such hearing and the text of the proposed amendment to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the district at least fourteen days before such hearing. Until the date of operating responsibility is assumed, the School Board is empowered to call a special district meeting under the procedures outlined above for the purpose of amending the articles of agreement.

- 14A. No amendment to the apportionment formula in Article 5 shall be effective unless the question of adopting such amendment is submitted to the voters of the school district by secret written ballot at the same time and in the same manner as the district elects its district officers at the town election in each town in the district, and unless 2/3 of the voters of the district voting on the question shall vote in favor of adopting such amendment. Furthermore, no amendment to the apportionment formula in Article 5 shall be considered unless the text of such amendment is included in an appropriate article in the special warrant for the annual election of school district officers. It shall be the duty of the school board to hold a public hearing concerning the adoption of any amendment to the apportionment

formula of Article 5 at least 10 days before such annual election and to cause notice of such hearing and the text of the proposed amendment to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the district at least 14 days before such hearing. The clerk of the school district shall prepare secret written "yes/no" ballots containing the question of adopting such amendment and deliver them to the town election officials in the towns of the district together with the official ballots for the election of school district officers. The ballot on the question of amending the apportionment formula shall be of a color different from any other ballot being used at the election.