



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873
Email: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov • Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

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TO: Members
Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding

FROM: Christa Pugh, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: School District Boundary Modifications

At the request of the Commission, this memorandum provides information about the process to modify school district boundaries.

The majority of school district reorganizations involve detachment and attachment of territory from one school district to another. A transfer of a small territory, defined as a territory containing less than 7% of both a school district's equalized value and its enrollment, can be initiated by a school board, the majority of electors in the territory, or the owners of a majority of the territory. The territory's owners or electors may initiate the process by filing a petition with the clerk of the school district in which the territory is located. The school boards of the affected districts must then vote to adopt a resolution ordering or denying the reorganization. If the reorganization is initiated by the school boards of the two school districts, the first step is for each school board to adopt a resolution ordering the detachment and reattachment. In either case, the reorganization can be appealed by a majority of the electors residing in the territory, or the owners of 50% or more of the territory. In the case of an appeal, the School District Boundary Appeals Board may review the decision of the school boards and affirm or deny the decision.

A transfer of a large territory, defined as a territory containing either more than 7% of a school district's equalized value or more than 7% of the district's enrollment, can be initiated by the majority of electors residing in the territory or by the owners of a majority of the territory. The school boards may grant or deny the detachment and attachment of territory by adoption of a resolution. If both school boards agree to the attachment and detachment, then there is no referendum. A binding referendum is held if either of the following happens following the school board decision: (a) either of the affected school boards directs a referendum be held; or (b) a petition requesting a referendum, signed by at least 10% of the electors residing in either affected district, is filed with the clerk of the school district from which the territory would be detached. The transfer of the large territory must be approved by a majority of the votes cast in each affected school district in order to be approved, or the territory is not transferred.

The following table shows the number of detachments and attachments that occurred in each of the last five years, all of which were small territory transfers

Number of School District Detachment/Attachments, 2013 to 2017

2013	2
2014	1
2015	7
2016	5
2017	7

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