

MDIRSS AOS 91 Reorganization: The Path to an RSU

Revised Plans, Community Feedback, and Next Steps | January 2026 Update

AOS 91

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The View from the Summit: Executive Summary



The Goal

Transitioning our system from an AOS to a Regional School Unit (RSU) to ensure long-term sustainability.



The Update

A Revised Reorganization Plan
is now available, incorporating core elements mandated by the
state. This includes changes to the original proposal.



The Action

Community engagement is ongoing. We conducted forums to review the plan, answer questions, and collect feedback.

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The Journey So Far



The Process Begins

The current reorganization effort officially launches.

Reorganization Planning Committee (RPC)

Meeting monthly to work through the steps outlined by the state to become an RSU.

Data-Driven Approach

Information used includes working agreements, meeting summaries, and state guidelines.

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The Revised Reorganization Plan

Key Insight: There are changes to the original plan.

- The RPC has released an update called "Reorganization Plan - Core Elements" detailing updated information about the reorganization.

- This revised plan addresses specific core elements mandated by the state.

Read the full 'Reorganization Plan - Core Elements' document (Available on the MDIRSS portal)



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Understanding the Core Elements

State Mandates

The revised plan is not arbitrary; it is built upon the ‘Core Elements’ specifically mandated by the State of Maine for RSU formation.

Expert Insight

To help the community understand these nuances, we have published an interview with **Chris Popper** and three RPC members.

FAQ

Comprehensive answers to specific questions regarding the revised plan are now available for review.



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Community Forums: The Strategy

The Reorganization Planning Committee (RPC) held a community forum in each town.

1. Review: Walked through the reorganization plan in detail.

2. Listen: Heard specific questions from residents.

3. Collect: Gathered feedback through facilitated small group discussions.



The MDIRSS School Reorganization Planning Committee appreciates your feedback.

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The Forum Trail: Progress Report

Completed Forums

- Trenton (June 23)
- Swan's Island (July 31)
- Southwest Harbor (June 30)
- Bar Harbor (July 14)
- Islesford (Sept 23)
- Great Cranberry (Sept 24)
- Staff Reorganization Update (Oct 22)



All are welcome to join any scheduled meeting, regardless of town affiliation.

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Recent & Upcoming Engagements

Mount Desert
Nov 19
Neighborhood House

Tremont
Nov 20
Tremont School Gym

Frenchboro
Dec 22, 2025

Upcoming: Staff Reorganization Questions Forum

Date: Postponed to **Thursday, February 5th**

Note: Check email for details.

As we move into 2026, we continue to gather input from every corner of our system.

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What We Are Hearing

- **Community Survey:** Broad data collection.

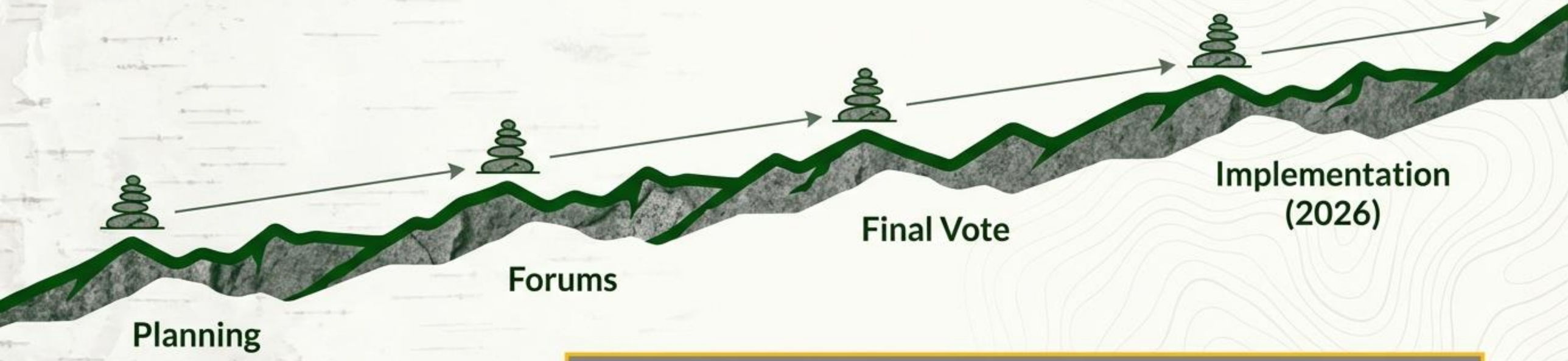
- **Small Group Discussions:** In-depth qualitative feedback from forums.
- **Community Input:** The Frequently Asked Questions document was updated on 9/25/25 directly in response to community input.
- **District Middle School:** Will be guided by the new RSU Board.



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The Timeline (Updated 10/9/2025)

The path to the final vote and implementation is mapped out.



A detailed, interactive timeline is available on the MDIRSS website. Please review it to understand the critical milestones approaching in 2026.

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Toolkit & Resources

RPC Group Members List

RPC Working Agreements

Meeting Summaries and Dates

Reorganization Plan from the State

Sample At-large Voting Process

FAQ

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The Schools of AOS 91

- Conners Emerson School
- Cranberry Isles Schools
- Frenchboro School
- Mount Desert Island High School
- Mount Desert Elementary
- Pemetic Elementary School
- Swan’s Island School
- Trenton Elementary School
- Tremont Consolidated School

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Thank you for your engagement in the future of our schools.
Please reach out with questions via the MDIRSS website.
MDIRSS AOS 91 Reorganization Planning Committee
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