



A Unified Future

MDIRSS / AOS #91 Reorganization Plan: Core Elements



The Big Picture: Our Goals



Better Education

Provide equitable access to the best educational programs for all PK-12 students.



Empowered Educators

Give teachers and staff the resources, support, and professional collaboration they need.



Financial Sense

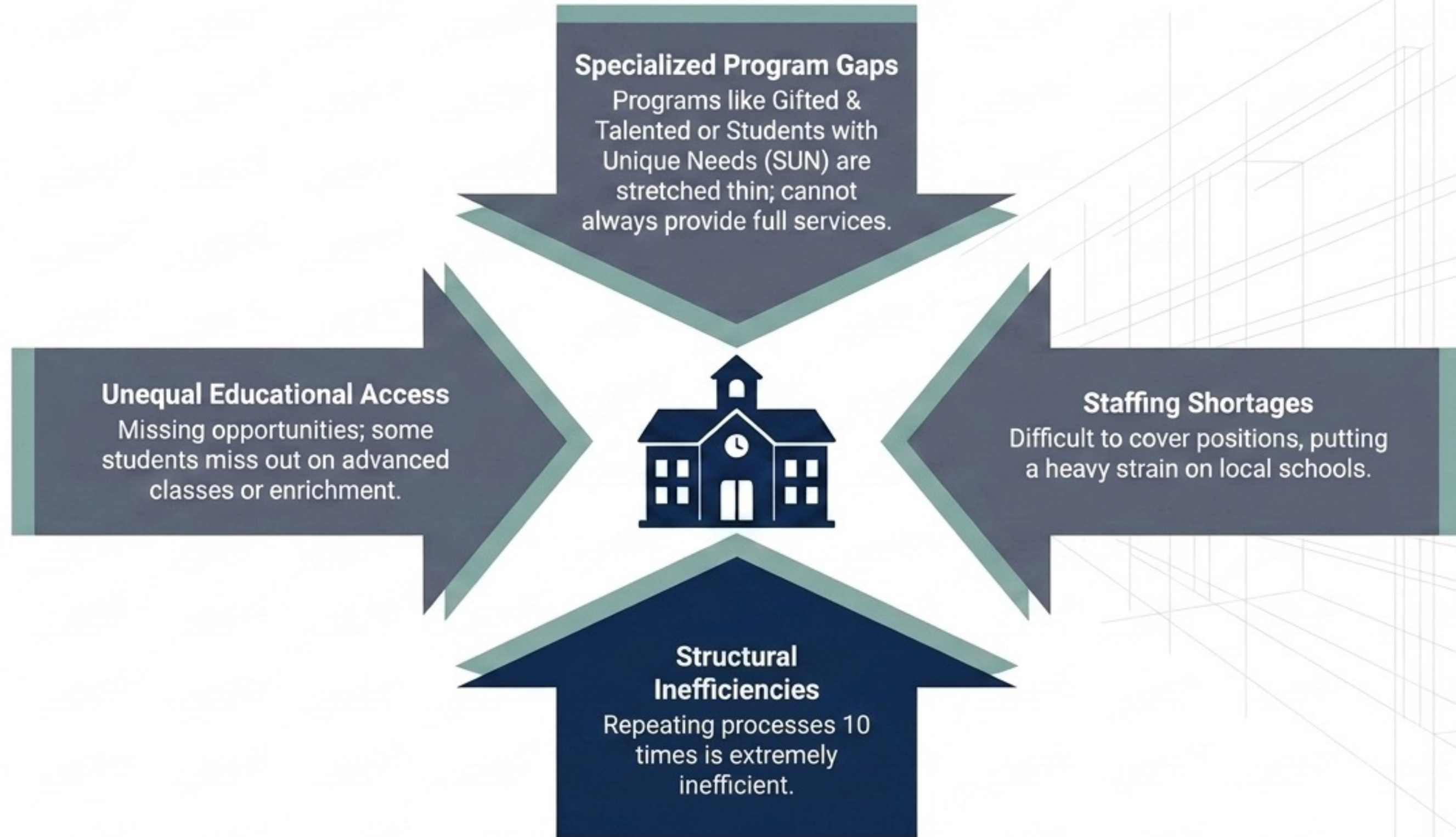
Deliver financial fairness and operational efficiency (saving money) for all towns.



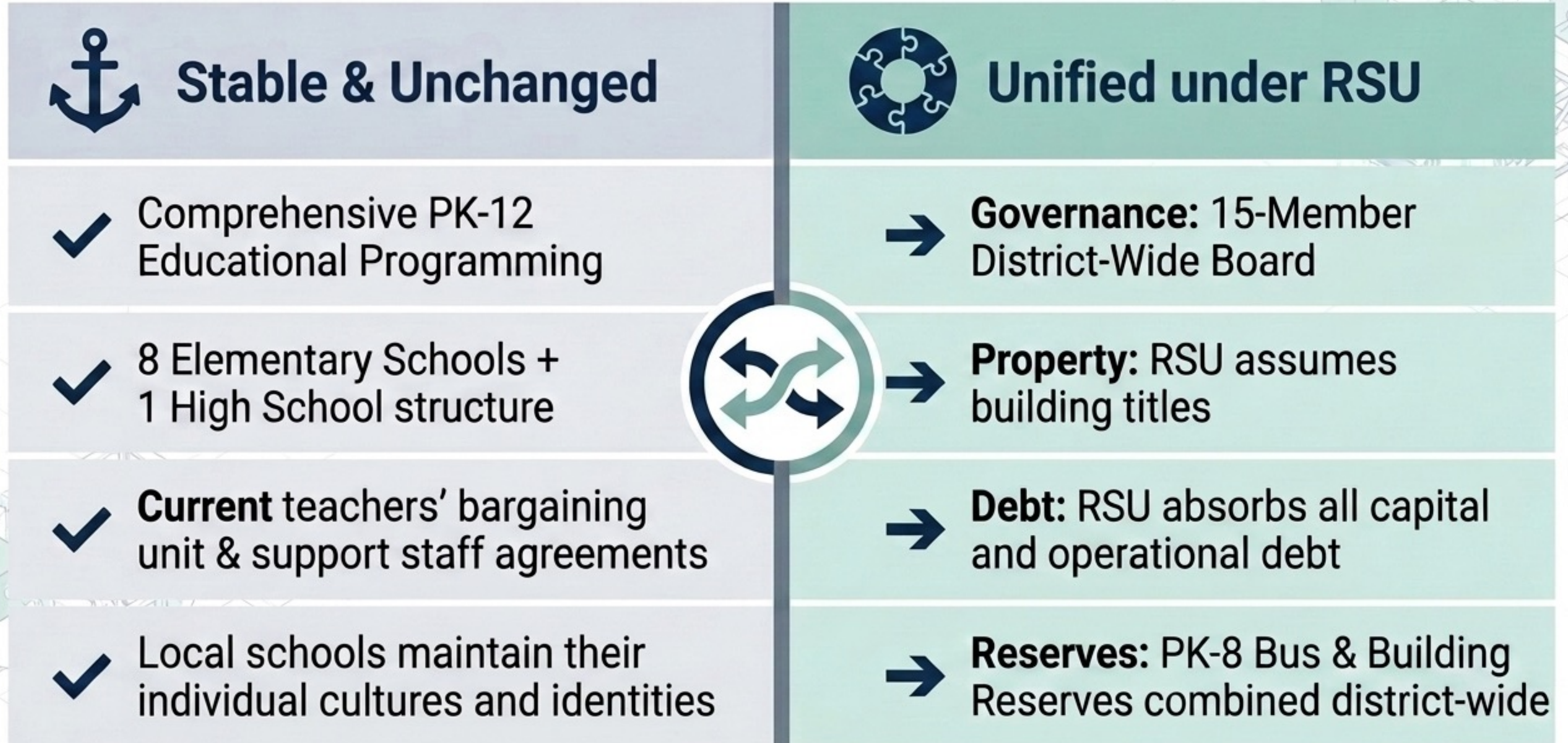
A Unified Future

Strengthen our shared commitment to excellence with a sustainable system.

The Catalyst for Change: Strains on the Current System



Synthesis: What Remains Local vs. What Unifies



A Unified Governance Structure

The Board: 15-member governing body for the entire RSU, elected with town residency requirements.

Fair Representation: Apportionment mirrors the current high school model and secures a dedicated seat at the table for Trenton and the Outer Islands.



Equal Voting: All 15 members have equal voting authority on district matters.

Board Apportionment: A Seat at the Table

Bar Harbor: 3 Seats



Mount Desert: 3 Seats



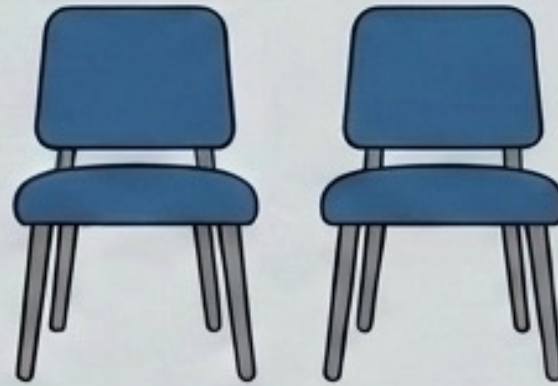
Southwest Harbor:
2 Seats



Tremont:
2 Seats



Trenton:
2 Seats



Cranberry
Isles: 1 Seat



Frenchboro:
1 Seat

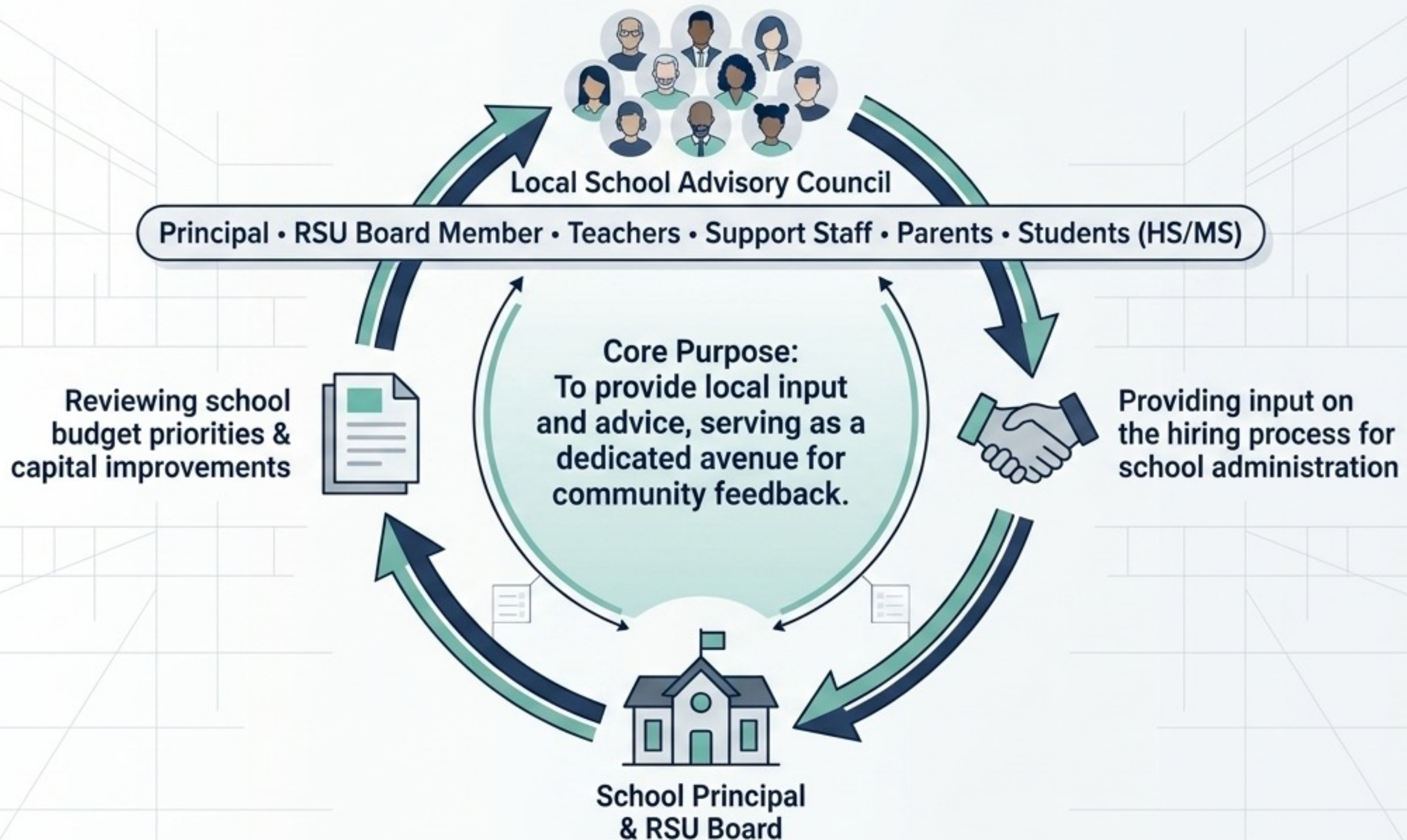


Swan's
Island:



Guaranteed Voice: Trenton and the Outer Islands are explicitly guaranteed equal voting authority on this district-wide board.

Protecting Local Voice: School Advisory Councils



Property Titles & School Closure Protections



Property Transfer

The RSU will assume ownership (title) of all school buildings.



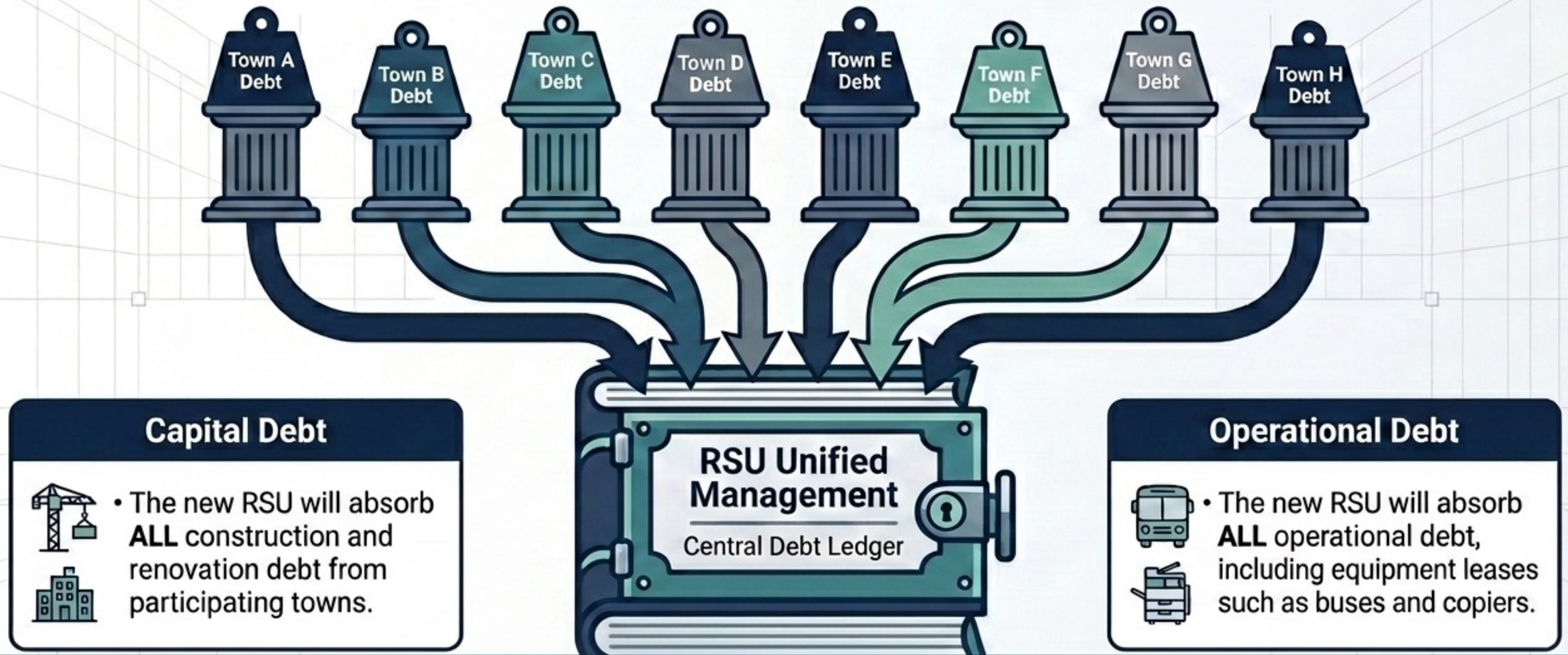
Protection Guarantee

The RSU Board **CANNOT** unilaterally close a school.

The Exception Clause:

A school can be closed **ONLY** if it is replaced by a new building **AND** approved by the town's voters.

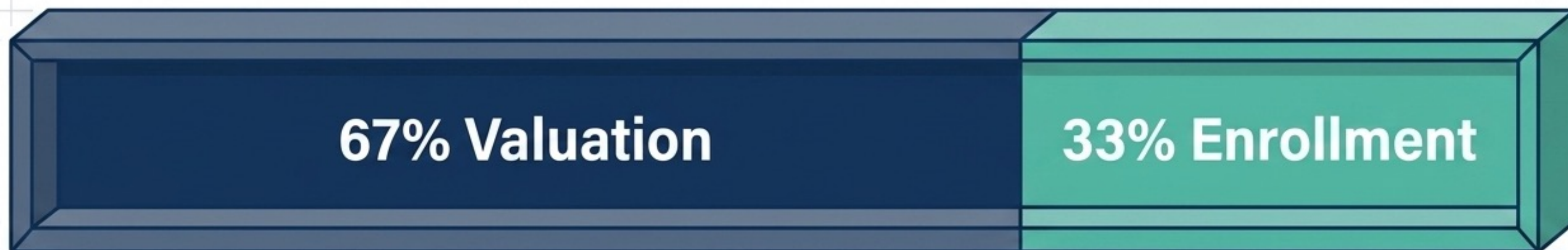
The Financial Engine: Debt Assumption



Individual towns are relieved of holding these separate liabilities; they become unified and fully absorbed under the RSU.

Cost-Sharing & Tax Fairness

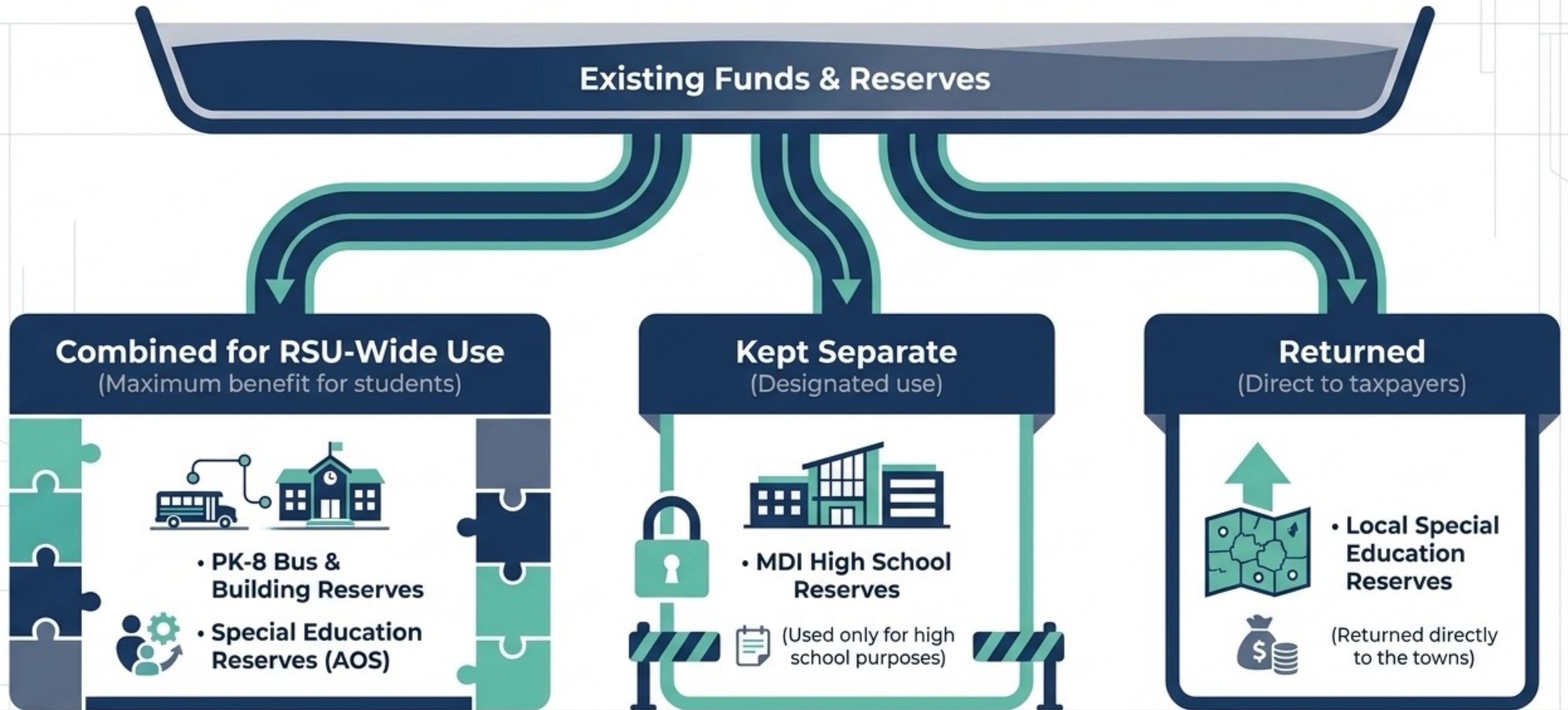
A funding formula determines each town's contribution to the RSU budget.



Based on State Valuation
(3-year State Valuation Average).

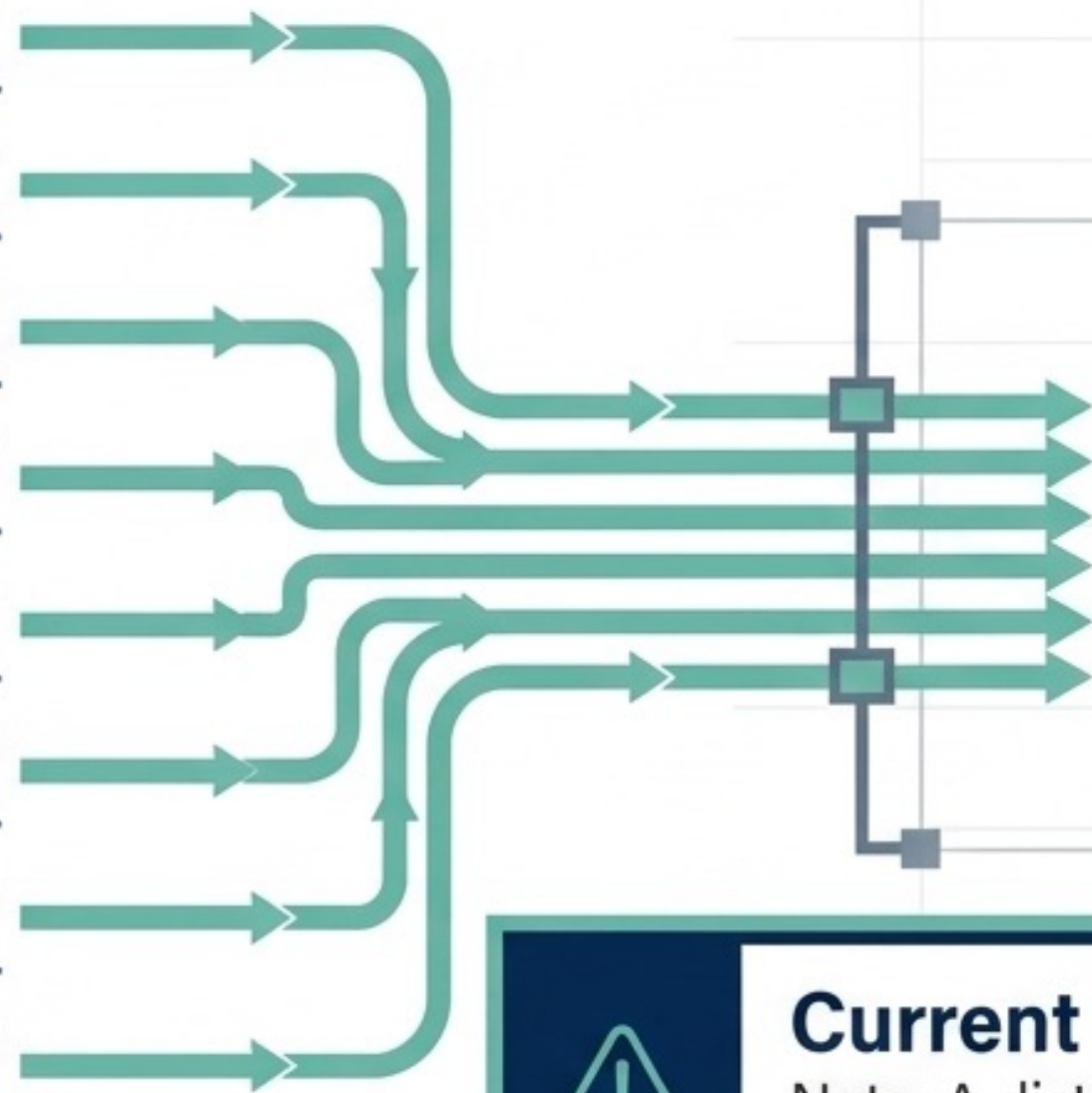
Based on Enrollment
(Current MDI High School Model -
October 1 to October 1 Average).

Strategic Allocation of Existing Funds & Reserves



Educational Continuity: The 8+1 Structure

8 Elementary Schools (PK-8 Configurations)



1 High School



Comprehensive PK-12 programming
will be maintained.

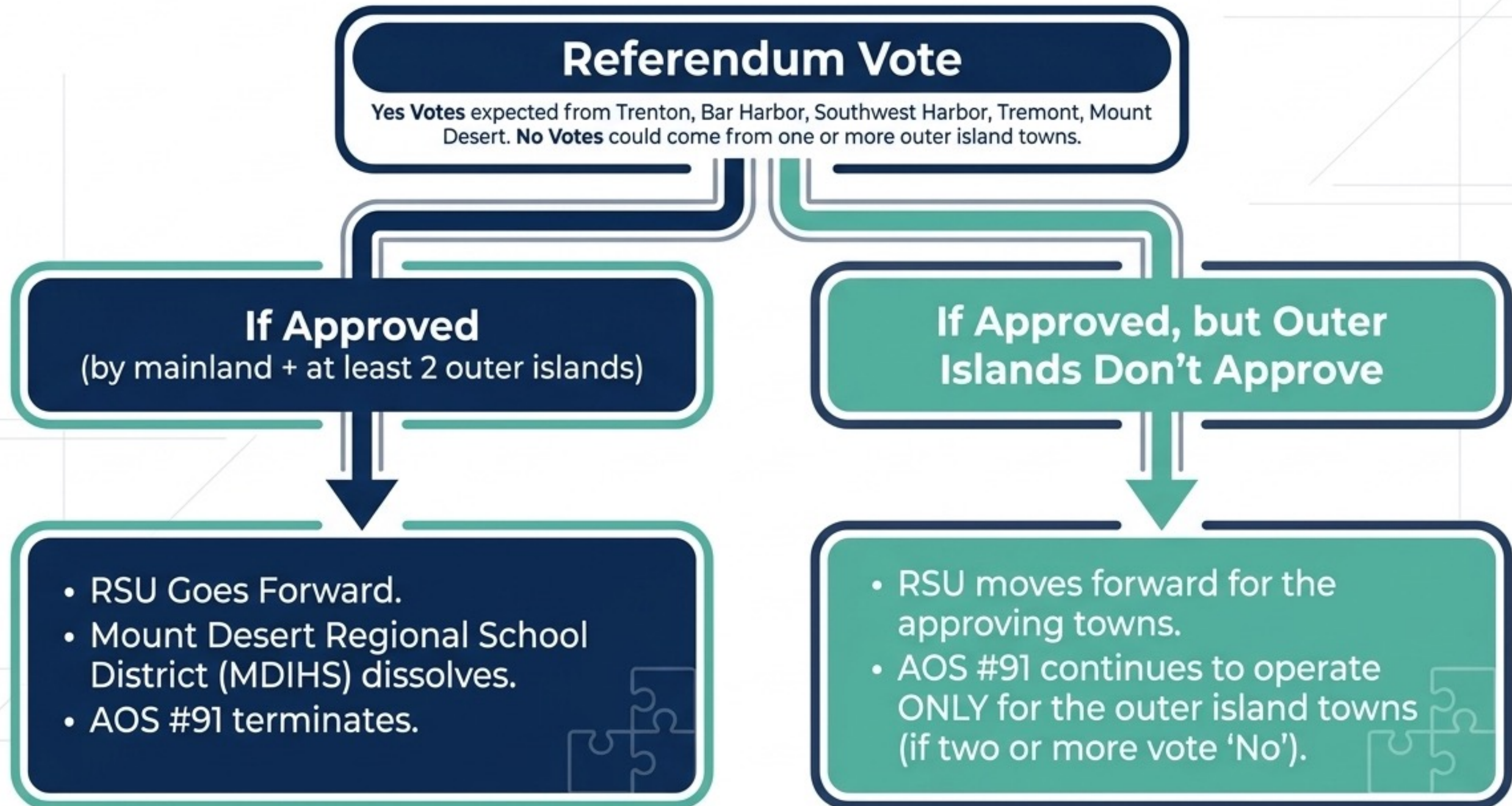
8 Elementary Schools (PK-8 Configurations)



Current Configuration Remains Unchanged

Note: A district middle school is NOT part of the reorganization plan voted on in November 2026.

The Referendum Scenarios



Next Steps & The Ballot

November 2026

Proposed
Referendum Date

Transition Period

Current AOS board appoints an interim RSU board to develop the first-year budget and maintain personnel policies.

July 1, 2028

Effective Date of RSU

Do you favor approving the school administrative reorganization plan prepared by the MDIRSS-AOS #91 Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize Trenton, Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, Mount Desert, Swan's Island, Cranberry Isles, and Frenchboro into a Regional School Unit with an effective date of 7/1/2028?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Changes in Taxes to Education in a New RSU Model

Changes per \$450,000 Full Value Assessment

Town	Present amount of tax toward education	New RSU amount toward education	Change in tax bill
Bar Harbor	\$2,253.70	\$2,577.82	\$324.11
Mount Desert	\$1,273.75	\$1,775.17	\$501.42
Southwest Harbor	\$2,802.43	\$2,426.18	-\$376.25
Tremont	\$3,667.32	\$2,765.73	-\$901.59
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	\$4,548.62	\$3,413.12	-\$1,135.50
Swan's Island	\$4,572.17	\$3,532.73	-\$1,039.44
Cranberry Isles	\$1,556.56	\$2,185.87	\$629.31
Frenchboro	\$1,636.20	\$1,990.01	\$353.81

Changes per \$450,000 Full Value Assessment + Bar Harbor's debt \$3,847,550

Town	Present amount of tax toward education	New RSU amount toward education	Change in tax bill
Bar Harbor	\$2,253.70	\$2,787.30	\$533.59
Mount Desert	\$1,273.75	\$1,919.42	\$645.67
Southwest Harbor	\$2,802.43	\$2,623.34	-\$179.09
Tremont	\$3,667.32	\$2,990.48	-\$676.84
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	\$4,572.17	\$3,690.48	-\$881.69
Swan's Island		\$3,819.81	-\$752.36
Cranberry Isles	\$1,556.56	\$2,363.50	\$806.94
Frenchboro	\$1,636.20	\$2,151.72	\$515.53

Changes per \$450,000 Full Value Assessment + Bar Harbor's debt \$3,847,550 + Mt. Desert's debt \$609,000

Town	Present amount of tax toward education	New RSU amount toward education	Change in tax bill
Bar Harbor	\$2,253.70	\$2,820.46	\$566.75
Mount Desert	\$1,273.75	\$1,942.26	\$668.51
Southwest Harbor	\$2,802.43	\$2,654.55	-\$147.88
Tremont	\$3,667.32	\$3,026.06	-\$641.26
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	\$4,548.62	\$3,734.38	-\$814.23
Swan's Island	\$4,572.17	\$3,865.25	-\$706.92
Cranberry Isles	\$1,556.56	\$2,391.62	\$835.06
Frenchboro	\$1,636.20	\$2,177.32	\$541.12

Changes per \$650,000 Full Value Assessment

Town	Present amount of tax toward education	New RSU amount toward education	Change in tax bill
Bar Harbor	\$3,255.35	\$3,723.51	\$468.16
Mount Desert	\$1,839.86	\$2,564.13	\$724.27
Southwest Harbor	\$4,047.96	\$3,504.49	-\$543.47
Tremont	\$5,297.24	\$3,994.94	-\$1,302.30
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	\$6,570.22	\$4,930.06	-\$1,640.17
Swan's Island	\$6,604.25	\$5,102.83	-\$1,501.42
Cranberry Isles	\$2,248.37	\$3,157.37	\$909.00
Frenchboro	\$2,363.40	\$2,874.46	\$511.06

Changes per \$650,000 Full Value Assessment + Bar Harbor's debt \$3,847,550

Town	Present amount of tax toward education	New RSU amount toward education	Change in tax bill
Bar Harbor	\$3,255.35	\$4,026.10	\$770.75
Mount Desert	\$1,839.86	\$2,772.50	\$932.64
Southwest Harbor	\$4,047.96	\$3,789.28	-\$258.68
Tremont	\$5,297.24	\$4,319.59	-\$977.65
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	\$6,570.22	\$5,330.69	-\$1,239.53
Swan's Island	\$6,604.25	\$5,517.51	-\$1,086.74
Cranberry Isles	\$2,248.37	\$3,413.95	\$1,165.58
Frenchboro	\$2,363.40	\$3,108.05	\$744.65

Changes per \$650,000 Full Value Assessment + Bar Harbor's debt \$3,847,550 + Mt. Desert's debt \$609,000

Town	Present amount of tax toward education	New RSU amount toward education	Change in tax bill
Bar Harbor	\$3,255.35	\$4,073.99	\$818.64
Mount Desert	\$1,839.86	\$2,805.48	\$965.62
Southwest Harbor	\$4,047.96	\$3,834.35	-\$213.61
Tremont	\$5,297.24	\$4,370.97	-\$926.27
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	\$6,570.22	\$5,394.11	-\$1,176.12
Swan's Island	\$6,604.25	\$5,583.14	-\$1,021.11
Cranberry Isles	\$2,248.37	\$3,454.56	\$1,206.19
Frenchboro	\$2,363.40	\$3,145.02	\$781.62

Changes per \$100,000 Full Value Assessment

Town	New RSU change in tax bill	Including Bar Harbor yearly debt payment: \$3,847,550	Including Bar Harbor and Mt. Desert yearly debt payment: \$4,456,550
Bar Harbor	\$72.02	\$118.58	\$125.94
Mount Desert	\$111.43	\$143.48	\$148.56
Southwest Harbor	-\$83.61	-\$39.80	-\$32.86
Tremont	-\$200.35	-\$150.41	-\$142.50
Trenton (AOS 91 costs + Ellsworth HS tuition)	-\$252.33	-\$190.70	-\$180.94
Swan's Island	-\$230.99	-\$167.19	-\$157.09
Cranberry Isles	\$139.85	\$179.32	\$185.57
Frenchboro	\$78.62	\$114.56	\$120.25

Positive values indicate an increase in the tax bill. Negative values indicate a decrease in the tax bill.