"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"

AGENDA for August 31, 2026
5:30 PM Special Board Meeting - School Board Study Session
Board Room, Williams Administration Building
YouTube:

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1. Call meeting to order/roll call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Agenda
4. Open Forum
5. Discussion Items
   5.a. Capital Outlay Fact Sheet
   5.b. Reorganization Discussion
   5.c. Strategic Plan and Goal Outcomes
   5.d. Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC)
6. Adjournment

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE **https://dor.sd.gov/** 1-800-829-9188 (Option 2)	# Capital Outlay
The purpose of this tax fact is to provide a general overview of the property tax impact on South Dakota school's Capital Outlay Fund. It is not intended to answer all questions that may arise. The information contained in this fact sheet is current as of the date of publication.	July 2025

School District Funds

School district funds are all moneys received from all sources. Examples of these sources are: federal, state or other local government sources; taxes; income from school property; borrowing sources; and other sources (SDCL 13-16-1).

The major school district funds are:

- General Fund (SDCL 13-16-3)
- Capital Outlay Fund (SDCL 13-16-6)
- Special Education Fund (SDCL 13-37-16)

This document will focus specifically on the Capital Outlay Fund and how money for this fund is generated.

Capital Outlay Fund Defined

Generally, the capital outlay fund of the school district is a fund for expenditures related to the purchase or lease of real property or equipment (SDCL 13-16-6).

> A school district may transfer from its capital outlay fund to its general fund no more than 45% of the total tax revenues deposited into the capital outlay fund during the current school fiscal year. (SDCL 13-16-6)

The fund may be used for:

- Land
- Existing facilities
- Improvement of grounds or equipment
- Construction or remodeling of facilities
- Purchase or lease of equipment
- Installment or lease-purchase payments for the purchase of real property, plant, or equipment
- Payment of capital outlay certificates
- Student transportation
  - ⇒ A school district may use capital outlay funds to pay up to 15% of contracted student transportation costs, and 15% of mileage reimbursement costs defined by SDCL 13-30-3.
- Textbooks and instructional software
- Warranties on capital assets

If you have any questions about a school district's capital outlay budget, contact the school district administrator or business official.

Capital Outlay Levy Defined

South Dakota state law (SDCL 13-16-7) allows a school district to authorize an annual tax levy up to $3.00 per $1,000 of taxable valuation for capital outlay fund purposes. The capital outlay levy is the same for all land classes.

Capital Outlay Limitations Defined

Growth + 3% Limitation (SDCL 13-16-7)

The Growth + 3% Limitation states that the total amount of taxes collected from the capital outlay levy cannot increase annually more than 3% plus the growth factor. This is the general rule. For taxes payable in 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, and 2031, the growth factor may not exceed 3%.

Growth factor is defined as any new construction which has occurred in the last year within the school district boundaries.

$3,400 Per Student Limitation (SDCL 13-16-7.2)

The $3,400 Per Student Limitation allows a school district to levy up to $3,869 for each enrolled student from the previous school year for taxes payable in 2026. ***This is the alternative to the general rule if the amount of funds calculated are less than the Growth + 3% Limitation.***

$1,400 Per Student Limitation (SDCL 13-16-7.3)

The $1,400 Per Student Limitation applies only to those school districts that were limited to less than $1,400 per student for taxes payable 2020 and who chose to exceed the limitation provided in SDCL 13-16-7 for taxes payable 2021. A school under this limitation may levy up to $1,593 for each enrolled student from the previous school year for taxes payable in 2026.

All limitation calculations are based upon the maximum taxes allowable, not actual tax dollars requested.

Regardless of which limitation applies, a school district may never exceed a $3.00 capital outlay levy.

Each year, the Per Student amounts will be increased by the lesser of 3% or CPI (does not include growth).

Determining the Appropriate Capital Outlay Annual Limitation

Other than those districts subject to the $1,400 Per Student Limitation, a school district will be limited to the maximum revenue allowed by either the Growth + 3% Limitation or the $3,400 Per Student Limitation, whichever is less. The school district and the Department of Revenue will analyze the data and calculations annually:

- If the lesser is the Growth + 3% Limitation, then the school district may request up to the dollar amount calculated by the increase of Growth and 3%. Growth will be limited to a maximum of 3% starting for taxes payable in 2027.
- If the lesser is the $3,400 Per Student Limitation, then the school district may request up to $3,869 per student for taxes payable in 2026.

If the $3,400 Per Student Limitation applies, the school district must verify their capital outlay debt with the Department of Revenue:

- **If the school district incurred capital outlay debt prior to July 1, 2016,** it can request any necessary capital outlay debt payment funds plus up to $3,869 per student. This may include any debt existing prior to July 1, 2016, that is refinanced without incurring new debt. Interest accrued prior to refinancing is not considered new debt.
- **If the school district did not incur capital outlay debt prior to July 1, 2016,** then it will use the standard calculation of the $3,400 Per Student Limitation.

All school districts are limited to transferring to the general fund an amount up to 45% of the total tax revenues deposited into the capital outlay fund during the current school fiscal year (SDCL 13-16-7.4).

School districts created or reorganized are exempt from the annual limitation for two years after creation.

Capital Outlay Fund Opt Out (SDCL 10-12-43.1)

If any school district feels it cannot operate on the revenues generated by its capital outlay limitation, the school district may choose to "opt out" of the capital outlay limitation by imposing an excess tax levy. Any opt out funds cannot be transferred into the school district's General Fund.

Opting out **requires a two-thirds vote of the governing body** on or before July 15th. The decision to opt out must be published within ten days of the decision. The decision may be referred to a vote upon a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in the taxing district and filed with the governing body within twenty days of the first publication. *The election must be held on or before October 1st.*

The total capital outlay levy, including the main capital outlay fund request, capital outlay debt payments request, and the opt out request, cannot exceed a levy of $3.00 per $1,000 of taxable value.

For more information on the opt out process, please refer to Opt Outs for School Districts Only.

What Capital Outlay limitation applies to my school district?

Did the school choose to take $1,400 per student increase in capital outlay revenues for taxes payable 2021?

YES → The district is limited to $1,593 per student.

NO ↓

Is the calculated amount coming from the Growth+3% Limitation less than the $3,400 Per Student Limitation?
(This will be calculated and evaluated annually.)

YES → The school district is subject to the Growth+3% Limitation.

NO ↓

The school district is limited to $3,869 per student.

Does the district have CO debt that was acquired prior to July 1, 2016?

YES → The district will be able to request the amount needed for the debt payment and an additional amount up to $3,869 per student.

NO → The district will be able to request an amount up to $3,869 per student.

Regardless of which limitation applies, a school district may never exceed a $3.00 capital outlay levy.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact the **South Dakota Department of Revenue.**

Call toll-free: 1-800-829-9188 (option 2)
Property Tax Division Email: SDPropertyTaxation@state.sd.us
Website: https://dor.sd.gov/
Mailing address and office location: South Dakota Department of Revenue
445 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

A Process Guide for School Board Use

Prepared with reference to SDCL Chapter 13-6, SD Dept. of Education guidance, and ASBSD's Reorganization Planning Guide

1. Overview

Reorganization is the legal process by which South Dakota school districts are created, consolidated, or dissolved. State law recognizes three forms:

- Consolidation — two or more districts combine to form a new district with a new school board (SDCL 13-6-1).
- Dissolution and annexation — an existing district dissolves entirely and its territory is absorbed into one or more neighboring districts; no new district is created (SDCL 13-6-61.1).
- Partial-territory transfer — only a portion of an existing district detaches and joins one or more already-existing neighboring districts. The origin district continues to operate under its own name and board with reduced boundaries. This is the scenario covered in Section 2 below, illustrated by the Colome / Wood–Witten / White River–Winner case.

Reorganization may be voluntary — initiated by board resolution or by a voter petition — or it may be legally required. Districts whose K-12 enrollment falls to 100 or fewer students, and which are not designated “sparse,” are required by law to reorganize (SDCL 13-6-97).

Recommendation: Retain a school attorney experienced in SDCL Chapters 13-6 and 13-15 before beginning. This guide summarizes the process; it is not a substitute for legal advice, and precise statutory language controls.

2. Partial-Territory Transfers: Which Statutory Pathway Applies?

A district does not have to be fully consolidated or dissolved to lose or gain territory. South Dakota law provides two pathways for moving a portion of one district into an already-existing neighboring district. Which pathway applies depends on the scale of the change and the number of districts involved.

Pathway A — Land Exchange / Minor Boundary Change (SDCL 13-6-84 to 13-6-84.4, 13-6-86)

This pathway is structured as a land exchange between two districts and it must be initiated by the districts' boards rather than by an outside petition. Neither board can be compelled to participate: SDCL 13-6-84.2 states that nothing in the statute compels a board to act if it is unwilling to exchange land, and that an exchange may only be made if each board is willing to exchange land. The area proposed for detachment, annexation, or exchange must share a common boundary with the two districts (SDCL 13-6-84.1); land owned by government or unoccupied land may be included.

A willing board adopts a resolution of intent that includes legal descriptions and a map of the land to be exchanged, a county auditor's certified statement of assessed valuation for the area and for each full district (including any bonded indebtedness or judgments against each district), and a commitment to obtain a fair-market-value appraisal from a certified appraiser mutually agreed upon by both boards (cost split evenly; the appraisal requirement can be waived only if both boards adopt a resolution to do so). Each board then holds a public hearing and votes to approve or reject the exchange; a board's rejection does not create a cause of action or grounds for appeal under SDCL 13-46-1 (SDCL 13-6-84.2). If both boards approve and no election is requested, the resolutions go to the county commissioners for implementation (SDCL 13-6-87). Within 30 days of the hearing, 5% of a district's voters may petition to refer the resolutions to that district's next regular election instead, decided by simple majority (SDCL 13-6-84.3).

Pathway B — Full Reorganization Plan applied to a boundary change (SDCL 13-6-10, 13-6-13)

The same process used for consolidation or dissolution (see Sections 4–7) can also be used to detach a defined portion of a district and annex it to one or more existing districts, without dissolving the origin district entirely. Statute does not set a fixed acreage or valuation threshold separating Pathway A from Pathway B; in practice, Pathway B is used when the affected area is large relative to the whole district, represents a substantial share of assessed valuation, or is being split among more than one receiving district.

As a full reorganization plan, Pathway B must satisfy every element of SDCL 13-6-13 and receive DOE approval. Voting authority under Pathway B is asymmetric between the origin and receiving districts. SDCL 13-6-41 sets the default rule that each district involved in a reorganization plan holds its own election. SDCL 13-6-41.1 creates an exception: when the approved plan consists of an existing district dissolving all or part of itself and being annexed to one or more other districts, the election is called only within the origin (dissolving) district — including any part of that district that is not detaching, so all origin-district voters decide, not only those in the area proposing to transfer. The district or districts receiving the annexed territory do not hold a district-wide vote; instead, under SDCL 13-6-13, each receiving school board acts by resolution to accept or reject the annexed area as set out in the plan.

This is a frequent point of confusion: for a partial-territory transfer structured as a dissolution/annexation, it is the receiving district's board — not a vote of that district's own residents — that decides whether to accept the annexed territory.

	Pathway A: Minor Boundary Change	Pathway B: Full Reorganization Plan
Governing statutes	SDCL 13-6-84 – 13-6-84.4, 13-6-86 (and 13-6-85.4 for closing attendance centers)	SDCL 13-6-10, 13-6-13, 13-6-17, 13-6-18, plus the election statutes in 13-6-41 et seq.
Nature of the change	A mutual land exchange between two boards; small, contiguous parcels along a common boundary	A detachment and annexation of a defined area, potentially split among multiple receiving districts
Who initiates	Either school board, by resolution of intent; requires both boards to be willing — neither can be compelled to exchange land (13-6-84.2)	A district's board by resolution, or a district's board must act if presented a petition signed by 15% of registered voters (13-6-10)
Who decides	Both boards, each by resolution after a public hearing and (absent mutual waiver) a certified appraisal; county commissioners implement	DOE Secretary approves the plan; origin-district voters decide by election; each receiving district's board decides by resolution (no receiving-district election)
District-wide election?	No, unless 5% of a district's voters petition within 30 days of the public hearing to refer it to that district's next regular election (13-6-84.3)	Origin district: yes, a majority vote of the entire origin district, not just the detaching area (13-6-41.1). Receiving district(s): no election; board resolution only (13-6-13)
Appeal rights	A board's rejection of a proposed exchange is not grounds for an appeal under SDCL 13-46-1 (13-6-84.2)	Plan may be amended and resubmitted; a rejected plan may go to reconsideration election under 13-6-49

Under Pathway B, affected voters do not receive a separate or weighted vote; the outcome is decided by a majority of the entire origin district. This means a detaching area could be outvoted by the remainder of the district even where that area's own voters are unified in favor, as shown in the case study below.

3. Case Study: Colome, Wood–Witten, and White River–Winner

This example shows Pathway B in application.

Background

The Colome Consolidated School District was formed by consolidation: Wood joined in 2008–09 (after a change in state law permitted non-contiguous district boundaries to be joined), and Witten joined in 2010. At the time, the Colome district planned to keep elementary schools open in each community. Enrollment later declined in both communities; the Witten school closed in 2021, and the Wood school closed in November 2022 after the district was unable to hire a teacher there. With no attendance center remaining in Wood or Witten, and a number of students already open-enrolled in the White River School District, patrons in the Wood and Witten areas petitioned to move their portion of the district, along with the associated property tax base, to the districts their children were attending.

Why this went through Pathway B, not a minor boundary change

- Scale: the affected territory represented approximately half of the Colome Consolidated district's land area and about one-third of its assessed valuation.
- Multiple receiving districts: the Wood/Mellette County portion was proposed to join White River, while the Witten/Tripp County portion was proposed to join Winner, with the new dividing line following the Mellette–Tripp county line. The minor-boundary petition process addresses a single receiving district and does not provide a mechanism to split territory between two receiving districts at once.
- Given these factors, the Colome board developed and filed a full reorganization plan with the Department of Education under SDCL 13-6-10 and 13-6-13, incorporating the boundary-change criteria of 13-6-84.1 into the plan itself.
- The plan was structured, per the filed petition and plan documents, as the Wood and Witten areas dissolving from Colome Consolidated and attaching to White River and Winner respectively. Under SDCL 13-6-41.1, this meant the election was held only within Colome Consolidated (covering Colome, Wood, and Witten together). Reporting on both votes lists polling locations only at the Colome Fire Hall, Witten City Hall, and Wood Community Hall; White River and Winner did not hold their own elections on the plan. Under SDCL 13-6-13, White River's and Winner's school boards accepted the respective annexed areas by resolution.

Timeline

Date	Event
2008–09	Wood joins the Colome district (post-consolidation, non-contiguous boundaries newly permitted); voters approve in 2009.
2010	Witten joins the Colome district; district becomes Colome Consolidated.
2021	Witten attendance center closes due to declining enrollment.
Nov. 2022	Wood attendance center closes after the district cannot hire a teacher; remaining students bused to Colome or open-enrolled elsewhere.

Date	Event
2022–23	Wood/Witten patrons petition; Colome board develops and files a reorganization plan with DOE proposing to transfer Wood to White River and Witten to Winner.
June 2023	First district-wide vote: plan does not pass, 163–149 (52.2%–47.8%). Wood voters cast 91–2 in favor and Witten voters cast 28–6 in favor; the town of Colome cast 155–30 against, a larger number of votes than were cast in Wood and Witten combined.
2024	Second vote held under the reconsideration provisions of SDCL 13-6-49: plan passes by a 10-vote margin, 188–178 (51.4%–48.6%).
2024–25 school year	Reorganization takes effect: the Wood area transfers to White River, the Witten area transfers to Winner, and the new Colome Consolidated boundary shrinks from about 804 to about 325 square miles, a loss of roughly 33% of assessed valuation. Colome retains its own school and board.

What this illustrates for board planning

- A partial-territory transfer at this scale is processed as a full reorganization plan under Pathway B, with the same DOE filing, plan-content, and election requirements described in Sections 4–7.
- The vote is district-wide. A subarea where voters are unified in support can still be outvoted by the remainder of the district, since it is the origin district's voters as a whole, not just the detaching area, who decide the outcome.
- If a plan fails, SDCL 13-6-49 provides a path to try again: the board may call a reconsideration election within one year, and must do so if 20% or more of voters petition for it.
- A single plan can send different pieces of one district's territory to two or more different receiving districts simultaneously, provided the plan and its boundary descriptions clearly separate each piece.
- The origin district is not automatically dissolved; a smaller version of Colome Consolidated continued to operate its own school. Boards should budget for the valuation and enrollment loss — Colome went to voters with a general fund opt-out the following year.

4. Phase I — Planning & Community Engagement

Before any formal action, it is recommended that the board appoint a Planning Committee of five to nine members (including one board member, who should not chair the committee) to gather data and engage patrons. The board retains legal responsibility and cannot delegate its decision-making authority.

Data the committee should compile

- Enrollment: five prior years, current year, and five-year projections
- Current curricular offerings, achievement data, and instructional hours
- Staffing levels across all positions (administration, teaching, support)
- Budget history, projections, tax/valuation trends, fund balances, and indebtedness
- Special education expenditures (historical, current, projected)
- Opt-out levy information, if applicable (opt-outs do not carry over to a new district unless expressly included in the plan)
- A map of the proposed district (no “islands” of unattached territory permitted)

- Current and proposed bus routes and mileage estimates
- Facility inventory and proposed future use or disposition
- Rationale for the choice of reorganization partner(s)

Community engagement

Public hearings must be held in each district before the plan is submitted to the Department of Education (DOE). Common practices include joint board meetings, posted maps, distributed budget/enrollment/curriculum data, and a written Q&A format in which questions are submitted on cards. A sample community questionnaire is included as Appendix A.

5. Phase II — Initiating & Developing the Plan

The board may initiate reorganization by resolution, or must do so if presented a petition signed by 15% of the district's registered voters (based on the last general election). Where more than one district is involved, the boards act jointly to prepare a single plan.

The board(s) must file the completed plan within 180 days of a petition being filed; the DOE Secretary may grant up to two 90-day extensions based on documented progress. If involved boards cannot agree on a single plan within the allowed time, the DOE Secretary will submit a plan to the voters directly (SDCL 13-6-10).

Required contents of the plan (SDCL 13-6-13)

#	Required Element of the Reorganization Plan (SDCL 13-6-13)
1	Map(s) showing boundaries of the involved and proposed districts, existing and proposed attendance centers, facilities, and proposed bus routes
2	Legal description of the boundaries of the proposed district(s) — copy directly from the County Auditor to avoid transcription errors
3	Estimated school-age population within the proposed district(s)
4	Assessed valuation of taxable property in each district and in the proposed district(s)
5	Outstanding general obligation bonds, fund balances, and receipts in process of collection for each district
6	Designation of the county of jurisdiction, if a joint district
7	The official name of the proposed district (a new name/number — the old district number cannot be retained) *(Checking on this for Annexation/Transfer with SD DOE)*
8	Proposed method for adjusting assets and liabilities between districts
9	Proposed number of school board members for a newly created entity *(Note: not necessary for districts only involved in annexation per Secretary of Education).*
10	Description of the proposed educational program
11	Budget estimate of annual receipts and expenditures for the proposed district(s)
12	Statement addressing any requested minor boundary changes
13	Process for a landowner adjacent to a non-involved district to request transfer of their land
14	Demonstration of compliance with State Board of Education Standards

The completed plan must be entered into the minutes of each participating board and filed with the County Commissioners of every county in which the proposed district lies, along with two copies to the DOE Secretary (SDCL 13-6-13, 13-6-17).

6. Phase III — State Review & Election

The DOE Secretary reviews the plan for compliance with statute and State Board standards, may hold additional hearings or request more data, and may disapprove a plan for insufficient valuation or enrollment to meet State Board program standards (SDCL 13-6-18). If disapproved, the board(s) may amend or abandon the plan.

Once approved, each involved board adopts a resolution calling a special election. For a dissolution/annexation plan, only voters in the dissolving district vote; for a consolidation creating a new district, voters in all participating districts vote. The election must occur within 90 days of DOE approval, and the DOE Secretary sets the date (SDCL 13-6-41, 13-6-41.1, 13-6-41.2, 13-6-45, 13-6-47).

If voters reject the plan, the board may call a reconsideration election within one year; it must do so if 20% or more of voters petition for one (SDCL 13-6-49).

7. Phase IV — Transition to the New District

Following an approved vote, the DOE Secretary issues an order specifying boundaries, effective date, number of board seats, and county of jurisdiction, and distributes it to the affected boards, county auditors, the Secretary of State, and county commissioners (SDCL 13-6-48, 13-6-48.1, 13-6-48.2).

The county auditor of jurisdiction then conducts the election for the new district's school board. New members may assume office after the first Monday in January. The prior boards continue governing their existing districts through the end of the fiscal year; the new/reorganized district becomes operative July 1 (or later if the DOE order issues after March 1) (SDCL 13-6-61 – 13-6-64).

At that point the former district(s) are legally dissolved. Officer terms expire when newly elected officials assume office and county-commission-directed duties are complete; assets, liabilities, and records transfer to the new or receiving district under a county commission directive (SDCL 13-6-67, 13-6-77, 13-6-78, 13-6-83).

Administrative transition items to assign to staff

- New EIN/tax ID, bank accounts, credit cards, and direct-deposit updates
- Sales tax exemption certificate, DUNS number, and new indirect cost rate
- SD Retirement System resolutions and employee B-1/E-1 forms
- Vehicle title transfers, license plates, and SDHSAA notification
- Final audit on a liquidation basis for the closing district(s); new-district accounting setup
- Disposition of student/club (agency) funds before students leave in the final year
- Coordination with the county on property tax apportionment and bank franchise fund allocation

8. Existing Debt and Bonded Indebtedness

Reorganization statutes treat two categories of financial obligation differently: general assets and liabilities, which are adjusted and reallocated as part of the plan, and bonded indebtedness, which is not transferred and instead remains tied to the specific property that originally incurred it.

General assets and liabilities

The county commissioners are responsible for valuing each affected district's school property and debt and overseeing the adjustment between districts (SDCL 13-6-77), and the directive carrying out that adjustment is filed with the DOE Secretary (SDCL 13-6-78). As noted in Section 5, the plan itself must include a statement of the proposed method for adjusting assets and liabilities (SDCL 13-6-13), and DOE guidance requires that statement to specify exact percentage breakdowns where allocation is based on land area or valuation, and to be supported by county commission approval rather than left to informal agreement.

Bonded indebtedness stays with the original territory

SDCL 13-6-82 provides that reorganization does not transfer the liability for existing bonded indebtedness away from the district or territory against which it was originally incurred. Where a bond issue remains outstanding, the county auditor continues the same annual tax levy against that specific property until the bonds are retired, regardless of which district that property is assigned to going forward for general operating purposes. At the close of the former district's last fiscal year, its bond redemption fund is transferred to the county treasurer and held in a trust fund together with ongoing levy receipts; the county treasurer applies that fund to bond payments as they come due and may negotiate early payoff of outstanding bonds when authorized by the county commission.

Practical effect for a partial-territory transfer: if the departing area carries a share of the origin district's outstanding bonded debt, that debt follows the property rather than the district boundary. Patrons in the transferred area may continue paying a separate levy toward the origin district's old bonds even after their general operating taxes begin going to the receiving district. In a 2014 South Dakota reorganization plan (Corsica–Stickney), for example, repayment of the Corsica district's outstanding capital outlay certificates and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds continued to be levied specifically against property within the former Corsica district boundaries under SDCL 13-6-82, rather than being spread across the newly consolidated district.

Discharging other liabilities and future borrowing capacity

SDCL 13-6-81 allows the county commission, within statutory limits, to levy a tax to discharge other liabilities of a dissolved district not otherwise resolved by the plan's asset and liability adjustment, and permits a bond issue for that purpose if needed. Separately, SDCL 13-19-8.1 governs how a school district created or altered by reorganization calculates its own debt limit going forward and provides for the broader readjustment of property, assets, debts, and liabilities. Boards anticipating new borrowing soon after a reorganization takes effect should coordinate with a bond counsel or financial advisor on how the new or adjusted debt limit applies.

- Confirm exact bond schedules (issuer, original amount, current balance, and maturity dates) for every component district during Phase I data-gathering — this is also a required element of the plan itself (Section 5, plan-contents item 5).
- Do not assume a receiving district inherits the origin district's bonded debt, or that a departing area is relieved of it — confirm the specific levy and trust-fund arrangement with the county auditor and treasurer under SDCL 13-6-82.
- Address any non-bonded liabilities explicitly in the plan's asset and liability adjustment statement so the county commission has a clear basis for its directive.

9. Full Statutory Timeline at a Glance

This timeline applies to consolidation, dissolution, and to large-scale partial-territory transfers processed as a full reorganization plan (Pathway B in Section 2). Minor boundary changes under Pathway A follow the separate, shorter process described in Section 2 and do not require an election in most cases.

Step	Action	Statute	Approx. Timing
1	Board adopts a resolution to develop a reorganization plan (or receives a petition signed by 15% of registered voters). If more than one district is involved, boards act jointly.	13-6-10	Trigger event
2	Involved school board(s) develop the plan: hold conferences and public hearings, gather data, may hire a consultant.	13-6-10	Up to 180 days after petition filed (DOE may grant up to two 90-day extensions)
3	Completed plan is incorporated into board minutes and filed with the County Commissioners of each affected county and with the Dept. of Education.	13-6-13, 13-6-17	Upon plan completion
4	DOE Secretary reviews the plan for statutory compliance; may hold hearings or request more data; approves, disapproves, or returns for amendment.	13-6-18	Roughly 30 days after filing
5	If approved, each involved board sets a special election by resolution; DOE Secretary sets the election date. (Dissolution/annexation: only the dissolving district votes.)	13-6-41, 13-6-41.1, 13-6-41.2	Election held within 90 days of plan approval
6	Election held; results certified and canvassed at the next regular board meeting and transmitted to DOE.	13-6-45	35–40 days minimum to set up an election
7	Majority vote in each affected district approves the plan; DOE issues an order with boundaries, effective date, and number of board seats.	13-6-47, 13-6-48	After canvass
8	New district school board election conducted by the county auditor of jurisdiction; new members may take office after the first Monday in January.	13-6-61 – 13-6-64	Following DOE order – *(Note: not necessary for districts only involved in annexation per Secretary of Education).*
9	New district becomes operative July 1 (unless the order issues after March 1, which pushes the effective date). Prior district boards continue operating existing districts until June 30.	13-6-48, 13-6-61	July 1
10	Former districts are dissolved; assets, liabilities, and records transfer to the new/receiving district per county commission directive.	13-6-67, 13-6-77, 13-6-78, 13-6-83	At transition

10. Board Action Checklist

A condensed sequence for board minutes and agenda planning (see also the detailed guidance above):

1. Adopt resolution to develop a plan, or acknowledge a qualifying 15% voter petition (13-6-10).
2. Jointly develop the plan with any partner district board(s); hold public hearings (13-6-10, 13-6-13).
3. Enter the plan into board minutes; file with County Commissioners and DOE (13-6-13, 13-6-17).
4. Respond to DOE review; amend if requested (13-6-18).
5. Adopt resolution calling the special election once DOE approves (13-6-41).
6. Conduct the election; canvass and certify results to DOE at the next regular meeting (13-6-45).
7. Receive DOE order upon approval; begin transition planning (13-6-48).
8. Support county auditor in conducting the new board election (13-6-62 – 13-6-64).
9. Complete asset/liability transfer directives with the county commission (13-6-77, 13-6-78).
10. Operate prior district through June 30; new district begins operation July 1 (13-6-61, 13-6-64).

11. Key Considerations for the Board

- Reorganization requires majority voter approval in each affected district; plan development should include a public engagement process in addition to the legal filing.
- A board member should sit on the planning committee but should not chair it, so the committee remains distinct from the board and open to community members.
- Opt-out levies do not automatically transfer to a new district; if continuity is desired, this must be written into the plan and separately advertised per SDCL 10-12-43.
- Facility disposition (e.g., gifting a building to a local government) is addressed under SDCL Title 6, Chapter 5 according to ASBSD guidance (cited there as SDCL 6-5-2/6-5-5); we were unable to independently verify this specific citation against current codified text in this review, so confirm the current section numbers and terms with legal counsel before relying on them.
- There are no monetary incentives for reorganization under current law (incentive funding ended July 1, 2010); only pre-existing obligations are paid out.
- Deadlines for submitting plans to DOE: consolidation/reorganization plans by the first week of January; dissolve-and-attach plans by the first week of April.
- If only part of the district is affected, decide early whether the change is truly “minor” (Pathway A, board-to-board) or large enough to require a full reorganization plan and district-wide vote (Pathway B) — see Section 2. Misjudging this can cost a planning cycle, as a plan built for the wrong pathway will not satisfy DOE's review.
- Under Pathway B, remember the whole origin district votes, not just the detaching area — build a communication plan for the entire district, not only the community requesting the change (see the Colome case study, Section 3).

Sources

South Dakota Codified Laws, Title 13, Chapter 6 (School District Reorganization), sdlegislature.gov

SD Department of Education, "School District Reorganization" and "Guidelines for Submitting Reorganization Plans," doe.sd.gov/ofm/reorg.aspx

Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD), "School Reorganization: A Planning Guide for School Districts," asbsd.org

Mitchell Republic, reporting on the Colome Consolidated School District reorganization votes (June 2023, April 2024) and subsequent opt-out election (June 2025), mitchellrepublic.com

Corsica School District, 2014 Corsica–Stickney reorganization plan (illustrating SDCL 13-6-82 bonded indebtedness treatment), corsica.k12.sd.us

This document summarizes South Dakota law and DOE/ASBSD guidance as a starting point for board discussion. Confirm current statutory language and DOE procedural requirements with your school attorney before formal action, since statutes are periodically amended.

Meade 46-1
Five Year Capital Outlay Plan

Revenue:	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
AD VALOREM/MH	7,907,500	8,315,000	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Ad valorem prior year	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Penalty & Interest	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest income	113,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Federal	253,000	0	0	0	0
ERATE Refund/donations	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Fund balance	650,000	250,000	350,000		
Total Revenue:	8,993,500	8,740,000	8,025,000	7,675,000	7,675,000
Expenditures	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
Debt Service	**3,591,593**	**3,366,049**	**2,782,684**	**2,772,371**	**2,476,035**
Facilities: Woodle Field	663,000	50,000	15,000	0	0
Williams	115,000	265,000	75,000	50,000	50,000
SBHS	191,000	1,318,000	950,000	821,000	525,000
SBHS CTE			1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
B&G	0	65,000	350,000	50,000	50,000
SWMS	140,000	30,000	100,000	50,000	50,000
PVE	560,000	325,000	110,000	75,000	150,000
STEL	429,000	100,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
WW	30,000	38,000	25,000	25,000	200,000
Rural	35,000	55,000	0	0	0
Stagebarn MS	20,000	52,000	50,000	350,000	50,000
Francis Case	0	-	0		
Total facility expenditures:	**2,183,000**	**2,298,000**	**3,250,000**	**2,996,000**	2,650,000
B&G	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Replacement vehicles	70,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
New Curriculum	554,209	500,000	400,000	500,000	400,000
Technology	201,250	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
OTHER	615,002	573,825	552,825	552,825	552,825
Property insurance premium	505,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
School safety & security	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Contracted busing	174,840	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
Transfer out	450,000	450,000	0	0	0
Co-curricular	76,750	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Contingency	25,000	0	0	0	.
Total expenditures	**8,631,644**	**8,397,874**	**8,195,509**	**8,031,196**	**7,288,860**
Surplus/deficit	361,856	342,126	-170,509	-356,196	386,140

Meade 46-1 Strategic Plan Focus for 2026-27

[Last year's SCORECARD]

DISTRICT SCORECARD TRACKING	Review Cycle			
Pillar 1 Student Success and Well Being **Principals - Curriculum/Special Education Directors Responsible**	**Tri 1**	**Tri 2**	**Tri 3**	**EOY June**
Strategic Plan Objective: 1.1 Strengthen academic achievement through aligned curriculum, effective instruction, and clear, timely communication with families about student progress.	11/3	2/19	5/14	
Goal: Meade 46-1 will improve Math scores by 2% or more as measured by the state assessment.				
Action: Implement PLC's in all school buildings.				
Action: Utilize the PLC process to make informed instructional decisions.				
Goal: Meade 46-1 will improve ELA scores by 2% or more as measured by the state assessment.				
Action: Implement PLC's in all school buildings.				
Action: Utilize the PLC process to make informed instructional decisions.				
Goal: By the end of the 26-27 academic year, Meade 46-1 will improve student attendance by 1% across all grade levels.				
Action: Establish district consistency in attendance coding and practices				
Action: Each building will establish attendance plans to increase student attendance				
Pillar 2 Excellent Staff and Instruction **Leadership Team**	**Tri 1**	**Tri 2**	**Tri 3**	**EOY June**
Strategic Plan Objective: 2.4 Promote professionalism and shared leadership through transparent decision-making and strong relationships.	11/3	2/19	5/14	
Goal: Meade 46-1 will increase staff participation in completing the employee experience survey from 51% in (25-26 school year) to 70% in (26-27 school year) and communication of results to all staff.				
Action: Increased opportunity of survey participation by setting staff time to complete the survey. Building administration will promote the completion of the survey**.**				
Action: Rollout of data by building or department within 2 weeks of data receipt				
Strategic Plan Objective: 2.2 Provide meaningful professional development, instructional support, and collaborative planning time.	11/3	2/19	5/14	
Goal: PLCs will meet a minimum of 2 times per month for instructional staff across all buildings during the 26-27 school year.				
Action: In the fall of 2026 we will provide PLC training to staff.				
Action: Building administrators will review PLC notes to ensure the PLC process is followed and the 4 critical questions are answered.				
Pillar 3 Facilities and Operations **Supt./Bus. Office/Bldgs. & Grounds/Food Service/Technology**	**Tri 1**	**Tri 2**	**Tri 3**	**EOY June**
Strategic Plan Objective: 3.4 Upgrade critical infrastructure (e.g., security systems, HVAC, technology) and design engaging environments that foster student success.	11/3	2/19	5/14	
Goal: A safe secure single high school campus will be developed with ground breaking in 2028-29.				
Action: Engage in contract with Archectiture Inc. to facilitate planning and design for SBHS under one facility 26-27.				
Action: Design and implement restricted access to back campus at SBHS construct summer 2027.				
Goal: Finish 100% district-wide building access controls and door security for student/staff safety by 2027-28.				
Action: Designation of needs and Marco estimates for Exterior door entry.				
Action: Identify final interior door lock security per School Safety Evaluation.				
Pillar 4 District Unity and Engagement **Leadership Team**	**Tri 1**	**Tri 2**	**Tri 3**	**EOY June**
Strategic Plan Objective: 4.2 Improve communication systems to share progress, set clear expeectations, and demonstrate accountability.	11/3	2/19	5/14	
Goal: Determine specific staff communication tool for 100% staff understanding of how communciation will be sent.				
Action: Increase staff engagment through District Wide Weekly Update to 75% of staff.				
Action: Building principal will send the District Wide Weekly Update link out to staff.				
Action: District standard practice for non emergency communciation by building through thrillshare.				
Goal: Administration will do roundings with all district employees 2x per year.				
Action: What are the key findings from the roundings and the changes we are making.				
Action: Communicate the key findings from the roundings and the changes being made.				

[LINK TO PLC DASHBOARD]

Meade 46-1 School Board Goals 2025-2026

	Goal	Current
Goal 1: Continuing Education for Board Members	**Goal**	**Current**
Objective: During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the School Board members will collectively attend 130 hours of continuing education and each board member to complete a minimum of 10 hours of educational activities.		
Task: School Board attends 130 hours of continuing education.	130	61.82
Task: All board members attend 10 hours of continuing education hours.	100%	33%
Goal 2: Community Engagement		
Objective: School board members will attend a minimum of 6 events or school visits during the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the district that a board member wouldn't typically attend. (If your child/grandchild is a participant would be considered an event that your would typically attend.)		
Task: Create a tracker to track events attended by board members, share the tracker, and make it editable by board members.	100%	100%
Task: Board members that have attended at least 1 event.	100%	100%
Task: Board members that have attended at least 3 event.	100%	100%
Task: Board members that have attended at least 6 event.	100%	67%
Goal 3: Strategic Planning		
Objective: Each Pillar of the strategic plan will have a minimum of 2 board members to champion the strategic plan.		
Task: Create a survey to determine where board members preference for pillar champion.	100%	100%
Task: Assign board members to a pillar to be a champion.	100%	100%
Task: Board members will meet as a pillar group every 90 days to	100%	0%
Task: Each pillar has a minimum of 2 board members as a champion.	100%	100%

Key	33rd Percentile	34th to 99th Percentile	Goal Met