



PENNSYLVANIA
ECONOMY LEAGUE

Information, Insight, Integrity.

Phase 2 Report and Recommendation: Millersburg Area and Upper Dauphin Area School Districts

OCTOBER 2020

Pennsylvania Economy League
Thompson Associates Architects and Planners

Agenda

- 1. Analysis of Option 2, 3 and 5**
- 2. Overview of Option 5 – Recommendation for Merger**
 - Facilities
 - Curriculum
 - Transportation
 - Financial
- 3. Board composition**
- 4. Next Steps**



Analysis of Options 2, 3 and 5

District Combination Feasibility Study

- Buildings
- Curriculum
- Financial Implications
- Board Configuration
- Collective Bargaining and Salary Schedules
- Transportation

Phase 2 Joint Board Resolution

It is recommended that the Joint Boards of the Millersburg Area And Upper Dauphin Area School Districts authorize the Pennsylvania Economy League to proceed with Phase II of the Feasibility Study with a focus on Merger Option Five and cost estimates of Merger Options Two and Three as outlined in the Phase I Study.

These options are:

Merger Option 2: All students attend the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary, Middle, and High School Buildings

Merger Option 3: Grades K-8 Two Attendance Areas with Grades 9-12 Consolidated

Merger Option 5: Grades K-5, 6-8, with Grades 9-12 Consolidated

Financial Comparison - Options

	Option 2	Option 3	Option 5
Staff Reductions	\$3,483,205	\$1,691,704	\$3,117,702
Debt Service Subsidy	-250,000	-	-
Recurring Savings	\$3,233,205	\$1,691,704	\$3,117,702
<i>*One-time Facilities Costs</i>	-1,600,000	-600,000	-133,000

Why not Option 2

- Pre-K-4 (UDA Loyalton)
- 5-8 (UDA Loyalton)
- 9-12 (UDA HS)

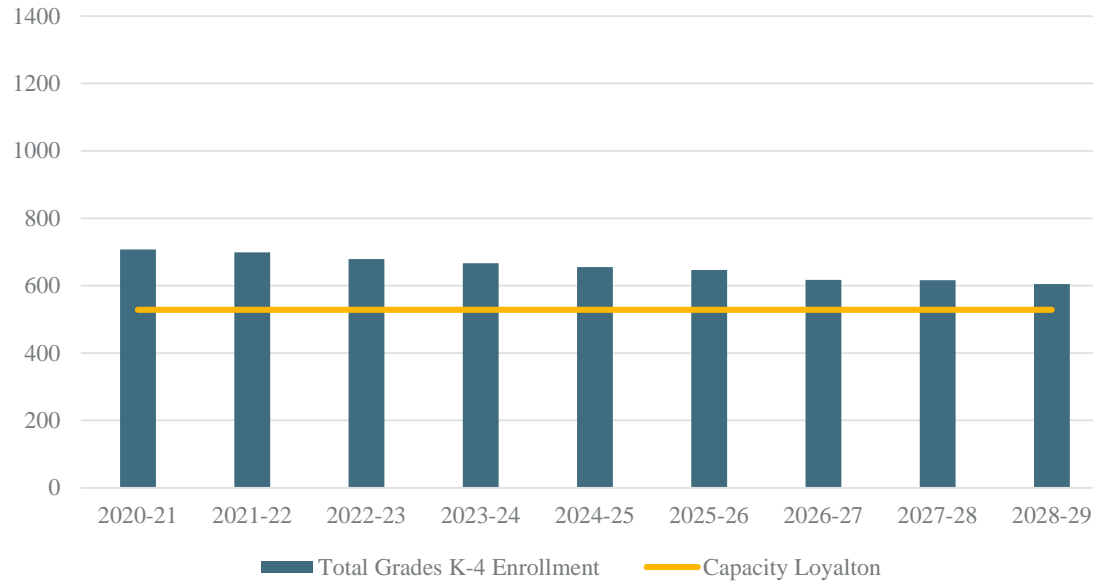
Option 2 Concerns:

- Capacity - All K-8 students do not fit in the Loyalton Facility.
- Loss of state subsidy with continuing debt service on Millersburg facility.
- Different grade configurations at elementary/middle schools

Why not Option 2

- Pre-K-4 (UDA Loyalton)
- 5-8 (UDA Loyalton)
- 9-12 (UDA HS)

Enrollment projections for K-4 students exceed the K-4 capacity at the Loyalton Facility through 2028-29



Why not Option 3

- Elementary Pre-K-8 (UDA Loyaltown)
- Elementary Pre-K-8 (MA MS/HS)
- 9-12 (UDA HS)

Option 3 Concerns:

- Equity of resources
- Duplication of materials
- Access to resources
- Staffing & technical costs
- Changing attendance areas



Recommendation

Merger Option 5

Grades Pre-K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 Consolidated

- Pre-K-5 (UDA Loyalton)
- Grades 6-8 (MA MS/HS Millersburg)
- 9-12 (UDA HS Elizabethville)

Student Capacity

- Grades Pre-K-2 are well-supported at the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary School
- Grades 3-5 are well-supported at the Upper Dauphin Area Middle School
- Grades 6-8 are well-supported in the Millersburg Area MS/HS
- School Year 21-22 capacity: (Pre-K-5 - 73%, 6-8-55% MS, and 94% HS)
- School Year 28-29 capacity: (Pre-K-5 - 63%, 6-8-49% MS, and 81% HS)

Curriculum:

- K-12 curriculum scope and sequence alignment
- Different High School graduation requirements

Financial Impact

- Discontinue educational use of Lenkerville Elementary
- Reduced administrative costs
- Improved economies of scale



Facilities

Facilities Recommendation

Pre-K-5 Elementary School

Grades 6-8 Middle School

9-12 High School

UDA ES/MS Loyalton

MA MS/HS Millersburg

UDA HS Elizabethville

- Best use of existing buildings
- Opportunity to provide more diverse instructional content
- Maintain and enhance K-12 course offerings
- Greatest opportunity for economies of scale

Facilities Recommendation

- Best natural fit of elementary grades
- Space for future consolidated administrative offices
- Sufficient gym and cafeteria facilities
- Option to streamline parent drop-off traffic flow
- Faculty can conduct face to face planning
- Sign out science labs
- Ample space to accommodate enrollment bubble
- Appropriate space to accommodate special education and pupil support services



Curriculum

Curriculum Configuration Goals

Expected Outcomes for Student Development

- **Elementary**
Skills-focused; learn to read; read to learn
- **Middle School**
Educating the “whole student” - mental, physical, emotional, social
- **High School**
Career and college readiness
- **Special Education Curriculum**
Builds skills and strategies to address cognitive, physical, and emotional needs; promotes self-advocacy skills
- **All Students**
1:1 Technology accessible to all students

Merged District – Curriculum Advantages

- More diverse instructional content
- Maintain and enhance K-12 offerings
- Better utilization of supplies and materials by grouping grade levels into one building
- Better collaboration and planning among teaching staff
- Increased flexibility for special education enrollment

A blurred photograph of a classroom where several students are raising their hands. The image has a blue-to-yellow gradient overlay. The word "Transportation" is centered in white text.

Transportation

Transportation Costs

- Larger transportation network compared to pre-merger totals
- Higher state approved costs and state subsidy
- Annual net taxpayer savings depends on procurement
 - Larger district = more negotiating leverage
 - Procurement of routes based on paying only state formula is the goal
- Year-one cost due to subsidy lag
 - Potential for grant funds to ease transition costs

Transportation Times

- Preliminary analysis with district routing software program:
 - 50% with bus runs less than 30 minutes; 90% of 60 minutes or less
- Majority of post-merger route times add less than 30 minutes, most less than 15 minutes
- Assumed grade-level-specific runs post-merger
 - Both districts currently have some degree of grade-level mix
- “First draft” to identify areas of focus to improve times/financial impact
 - Collaboration between districts and with vendors to improve routes
 - Hub concept for Millersburg; smaller capacity vehicles for outlier areas



Financial

Financial Projections

Combined Surplus/Deficit Estimate for 2021-22 at 18.8775 Millage Rate

	Combined
	2021-22
Combined Revenues at 2019-20 Millage	\$34,997,321
Less: RE Tax Revenue Adjustment	<u>-570,662</u>
Net Revenues	\$34,426,658
Combined Expenditures	\$37,068,130
Staff Savings from Combination and Facilities	<u>-3,117,702</u>
Net Expenditures	\$33,950,428
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$476,230

Financial Summary

- **Personnel Savings**
Reduction in approximately 40 positions total
Projected \$3.1 million personnel savings
- **Combined Tax Rate**
18.8775 Millage Rate
- **One-time costs**
Approximately \$133,000 in one-time costs for renovation, curriculum materials and \$360,525 in transportation subsidy lag. Other costs include technology, rebranding.
- **Financial Support**
Possibly offset by one-time funds request of the State Department of Education for merger support

A blurred photograph of a classroom where several students are raising their hands. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue and yellow gradient. The text 'Board Composition' is centered in white.

Board Composition

School Board Election Cycles

- The School Code Section 303 (24 PS 3-303) provides that:
 - Effective in 1979 terms were reduced from 6 to 4 years and for each municipal election in an odd numbered year thereafter
 - Beginning in 1983 and every four years thereafter election of 4 members for four year terms
 - Beginning in 1987 and every four years thereafter election of 5 members for four year terms

Number of Open Seats	
4	5
Election Year	Election Year
2001	
	2003
2005	
	2007
2009	
	2011
2013	
	2015
2017	
	2019
2021	
	2023
2025	

Election Cycle in a Merged District

Boards vote to consolidate on March 21, 2021

If State Board approves Before Feb 2022

	Upper Dauphin Area SD seats up for election	Millersburg Area SD seats up for election	Current members up for Election	Board Members seats to be Elected	Total Board
2022	0	0	0	0	18
2023	4	5	9	5	14
2024	0	0	0	0	14
2025	5	4	9	4	9
2026			0	0	9
2027			5	5	9
2028			0	0	9
2029			4	4	9



Next Steps

Next Steps



**Presentation to
Joint Meeting of
School Boards**



**Community
Information Sessions
and Q&A Sessions –
November 9 and 16**



**Joint Meeting of
School Boards to
vote on merger**



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