

School District Consolidation:



**EXPANSION IN THE CONTEXT OF A SCHOOL
BUILDING PROJECT**

Theoretical Benefits of Regionalization



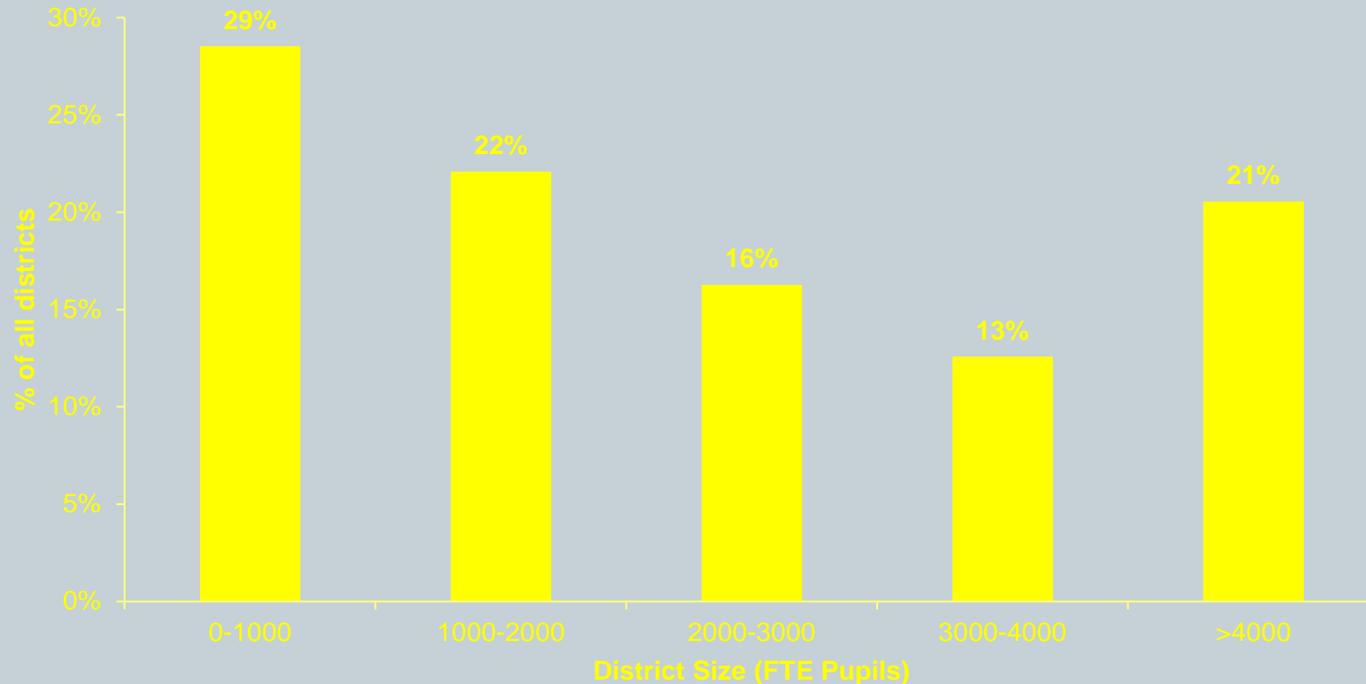
- Increase central office capacity to support instruction
- Increase academic opportunities and program choice for students and parents
- Lower operating and administrative costs through economies of scale

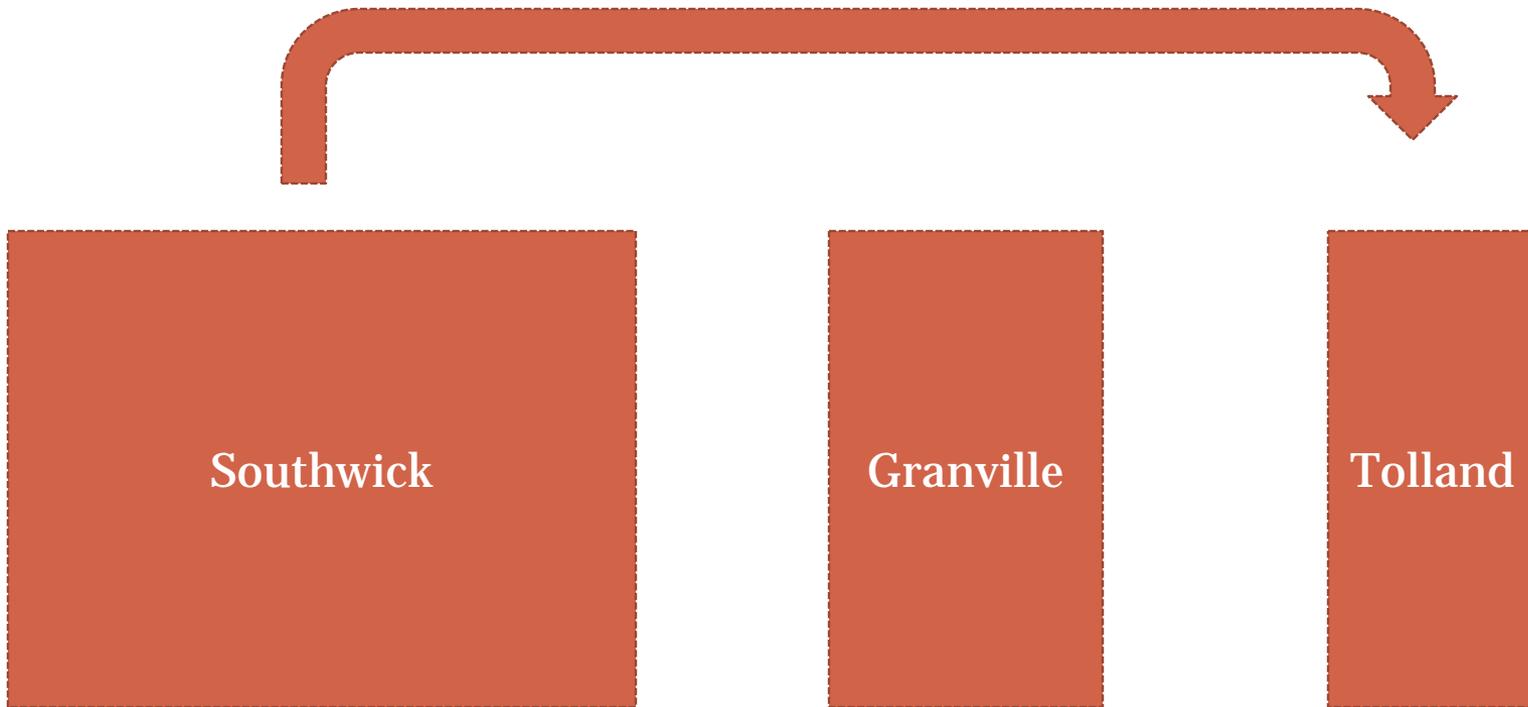
Most Massachusetts school districts are small



88 percent of Massachusetts' 329 school districts enroll fewer than 5,000 students

- 79 percent enroll fewer than 4,000 students
- 51 percent enroll fewer than 2,000 students



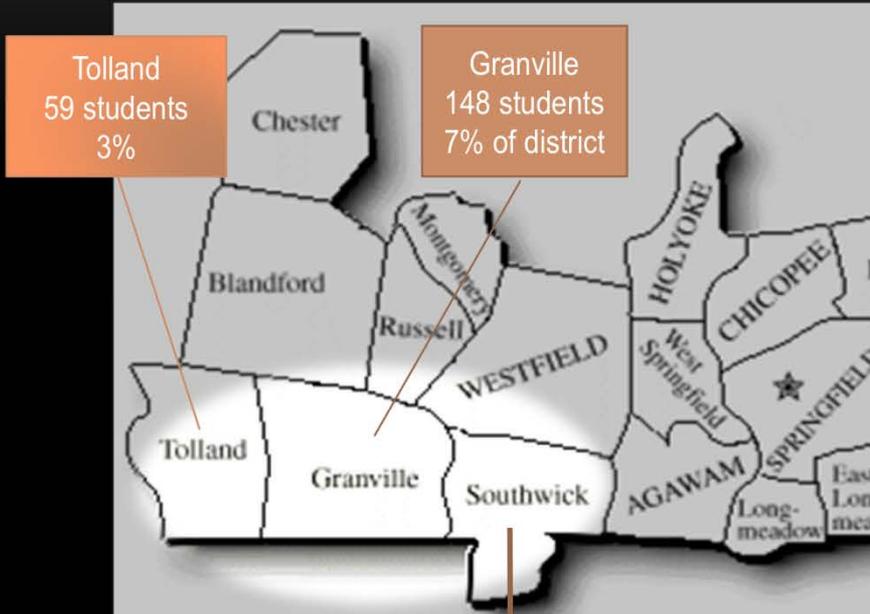


Southwick-Tolland: Two town regional district

Granville: A small independent school district (one school K-8)



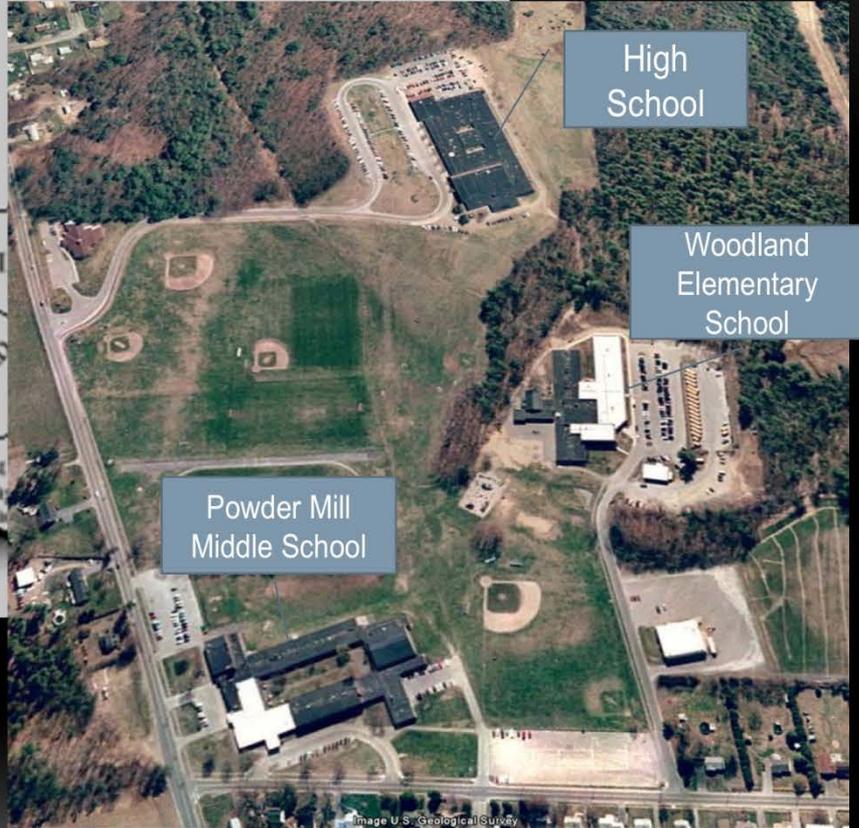
DISTRICT OVERVIEW



Tolland
59 students
3%

Granville
148 students
7% of district

Southwick
1,738 students
90% of district



Current Collaborations

- **Employee Health Insurance**
- **School Lunch commodities and purchasing**
- **Bulk utility/fossil fuel purchases: Heating fuel, Gasoline, Electricity**
- **School instructional supplies/Copy machines and paper (service contracts)**
- **Custodial equipment and supplies**
- **Special Needs Transportation**
- **Special Needs Administrative Support**
- **Vocational education programs through LPVEC**
- **Professional development activities**
- **Technology enhancements: software support, Connect Ed, service contracts**
- **Specialty repair technicians: HVAC, Computer/technology, Boiler, Electricians**

Remember



- **A regional agreement's main goal is to improve the educational experiences of all the students in the member towns.**
- **Regionalization is about providing better educational opportunities for children over a longer period of time.**
- **The potential to maximize resources to save funds is great but money is a short-term satisfier. You have to be willing to make the long-term commitment for more than one reason.**
- **There can be financial benefits for each town but they may vary for each town**

The Regionalization Process



- **Town Meeting vote to conduct study**
- **Support from School Committee and Boards of Selectmen in all three towns**
- **Feasibility study performed by PVPC**
- **Regional Study Committee reviews agreement**
- **Initial review of agreement by DESE**
- **New agreement presented to three towns**
- **Towns hold Town Meetings and Vote**

Focus of the Study Committee



- **Review the results of the Study by PVPC**
- **Review the current regional agreement and make adjustments**
- **Review financial impact**
- **Review impact of regionalization on proposed project**
- **Respond to concerns expressed at open meetings**
- **Develop initial “transition” plan**

Factors that impacted the consolidation effort:

Positives

Requested by the Granville Select Board (Summer of 2009,
(declining enrollment and school funding)

A central office agreement had been in place for several years
same superintendent and business manager

state reporting, budget development, compliance work in place

Regionalization was not a new idea – had been discussed and studied in
the past by ad hoc committees

Availability of District Local Technical Assistance funds
(Pioneer Valley Planning Commission)

Extraordinary incentive provide by MSBA

Negatives

Previous volunteer studies concluded that Granville should remain
independent

Geographical differences, parochial sentiment

Community perceptions that Granville would be swallowed up by a
large impersonal organization

Why Regionalize? YES!



- **Reduces travel for some students**
- **Flexibility with grade configurations**
- **Better suited to handle populations changes**
- **Increases offerings to students**
- **Allows for long-range planning**
- **We maximize resources**
- **Increased funding for transportation**
- **Consolidation of services to save funds**
- **Increased financial support for building project**

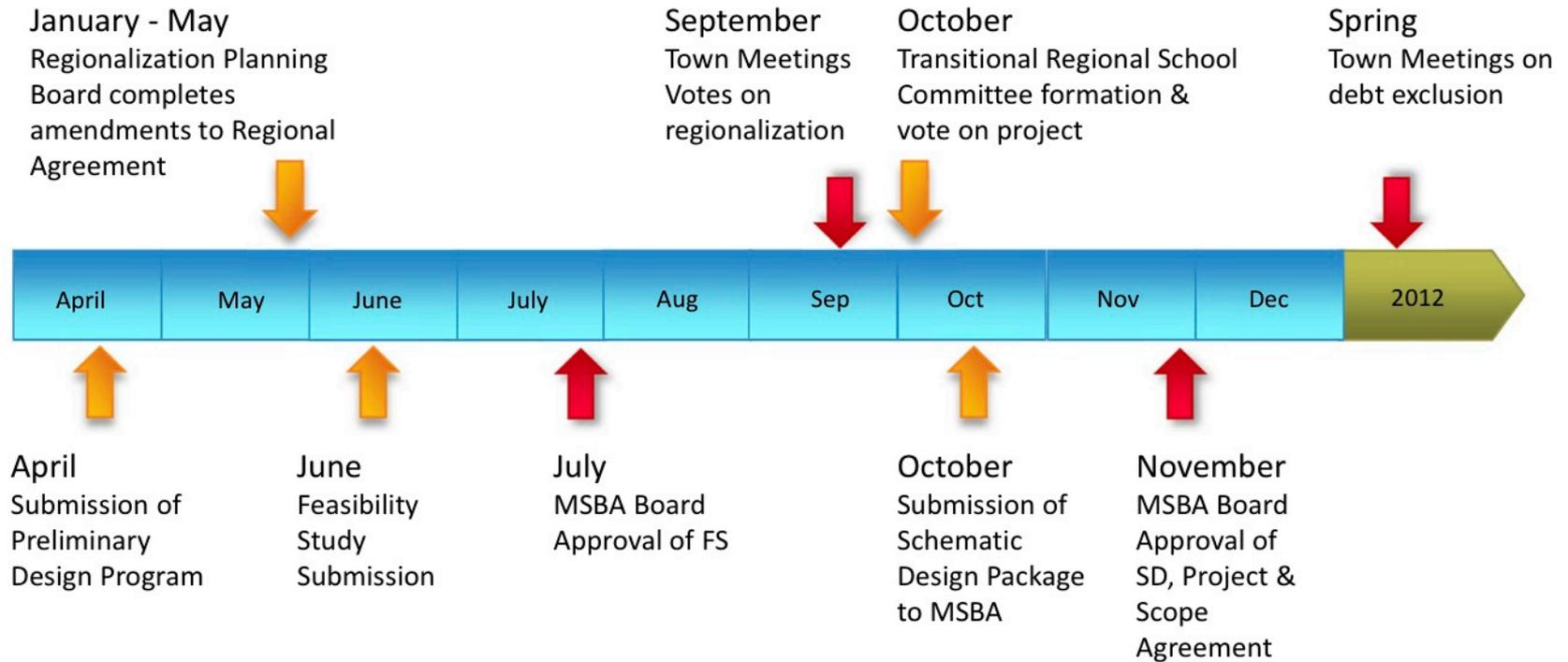
Why Regionalize? NO!

- **We lose autonomy of our budget**
- **We lose all control: small rules the large/large rules the small**
- **Places our school in jeopardy of closure**
- **Students may leave school for middle school**
- **Future configuration of schools unknown**



PROJECT SCHEDULE – KEY PROJECT MILESTONES

Regionalization/Local Approval Timeline



MSBA Timeline

