

School District Reorganization

Plan Requirements & Statutory Steps



School District Organization Act of 1992

The School District Organization Act of 1992, §22-30-101, et seq., C.R.S., permits multiple school districts to be created from a single school district; multiple school districts to reorganize into fewer districts (consolidation); the alteration of school district borders (detachment and annexation); and the discontinuance of a school district and the annexation of its territory by existing school districts (dissolution and annexation). The Act was amended by House Bill 96-1012 during the 1996 legislative session and again by Senate Bill 19-183 during the 2019 legislative session. The 1992 Act and its amendments outline the procedures for school districts to follow for any organizational change.

This fact sheet outlines the broad steps and timelines. It is not legal advice. The full text of the law should be consulted, and the assistance of a local attorney in school organization matters is advised. The Colorado Department of Education will provide guidance and consultation to school organization planning committees and other citizens. For questions, please contact Christina Monaco, Executive Director of Field Services (Monaco_C@cde.state.co.us). The Unit of School and District Transformation is assigned responsibility for administering the section of the Act explicitly addressing directed action under the state accountability system (which was amended by S.B. 19-183). For questions pertaining specifically to the process detailed under S.B.19-183, please contact Nate Goss, School and District Accountability Manager (Goss_N@cde.state.co.us).

Please consult the [Manual of Procedures for School Organization Act of 1992](#) for additional information about this process.

Requirements for the Plan of Organization

The plan of organization developed by the school organization planning committee must include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:

- The educational needs of students, including the convenience and welfare of students;
- Diverse educational opportunities for students;
- Equal educational opportunities provided to students in each affected district;
- Utilization of facilities in each affected district;
- Establishment of boundaries for all existing or new school districts;
- Equitable adjustment and distribution of all or any part of the properties or assets of the school districts whose boundaries may be affected by the plan of organization;
- Dates for one or more special school district elections to approve or reject the plan of organization.

Statutory Steps

The table and flowchart below outlines the statutory steps for the original reorganization process outlined under §22-30-101 to -127. This original process may be used for any type of reorganization, namely multiple school districts to be created from a single school district; multiple school districts to reorganize into fewer districts (consolidation); the alteration of school district borders (detachment and annexation); and the discontinuance of a school district and the annexation of its territory by existing school districts (dissolution and annexation). The newer, alternate process outlined in §22-30-129 is available for dissolution and annexation if certain conditions are present. The steps below do not apply to process under §22-30-129.



Statutory Step	Description
<p>Activation of the School District Organization Process</p> <p>§22-30-105</p> <p>Manual of Procedures Step 1</p>	<p>Activation of the school district organization process occurs if any of the following conditions exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or more local boards of education requests the appointment of a school organization planning committee. Each school district which would be affected by the actions of such planning committee must submit a separate resolution. - A petition committee presents a petition to the commissioner and to the county clerk and recorder of each affected county. - The state board directs a school district to reorganize during an accountability hearing.
<p>Affected Districts Noticed and Committee Forms</p> <p>§22-30-106 to -110</p> <p>Manual of Procedures Step 3</p>	<p>Commissioner notices affected districts</p> <hr/> <p>Committee members appointed per §22-30-106</p> <hr/> <p>Committee members certified to the Commissioner</p>
<p>Committee Develops Plan & Public Hearings</p> <p>§22-30-114 to -115</p> <p>Manual of Procedures Steps 7-14</p>	<p>Committee meets to develop a plan of organization</p> <hr/> <p>Plan filed with Commissioner and each local board</p> <hr/> <p>Public notice of proposed plan & public hearings</p>
<p>Committee & Commissioner Finalize Plan</p> <p>§22-30-116</p> <p>Manual of Procedures Steps 15-19</p>	<p>Committee and Commissioner consider community feedback to develop a mutually agreeable final plan</p> <hr/> <p>Committee and Commissioner agree upon final plan of organization</p>
<p>Special Election is Held</p> <p>§22-30-117 to -121</p> <p>Manual of Procedures Steps 20-22</p>	<p>Committee sets date for special school district organization elections held in each affected district</p> <hr/> <p>If approved, changes take effect the first day of the following fiscal year, and financial considerations are followed per §22-30-123 to -127</p> <hr/> <p>If rejected, there are different pathways dependent on the election results (per §22-30-121)</p>

