

Maine's Reorganized School Districts: Status as of March 2, 2010

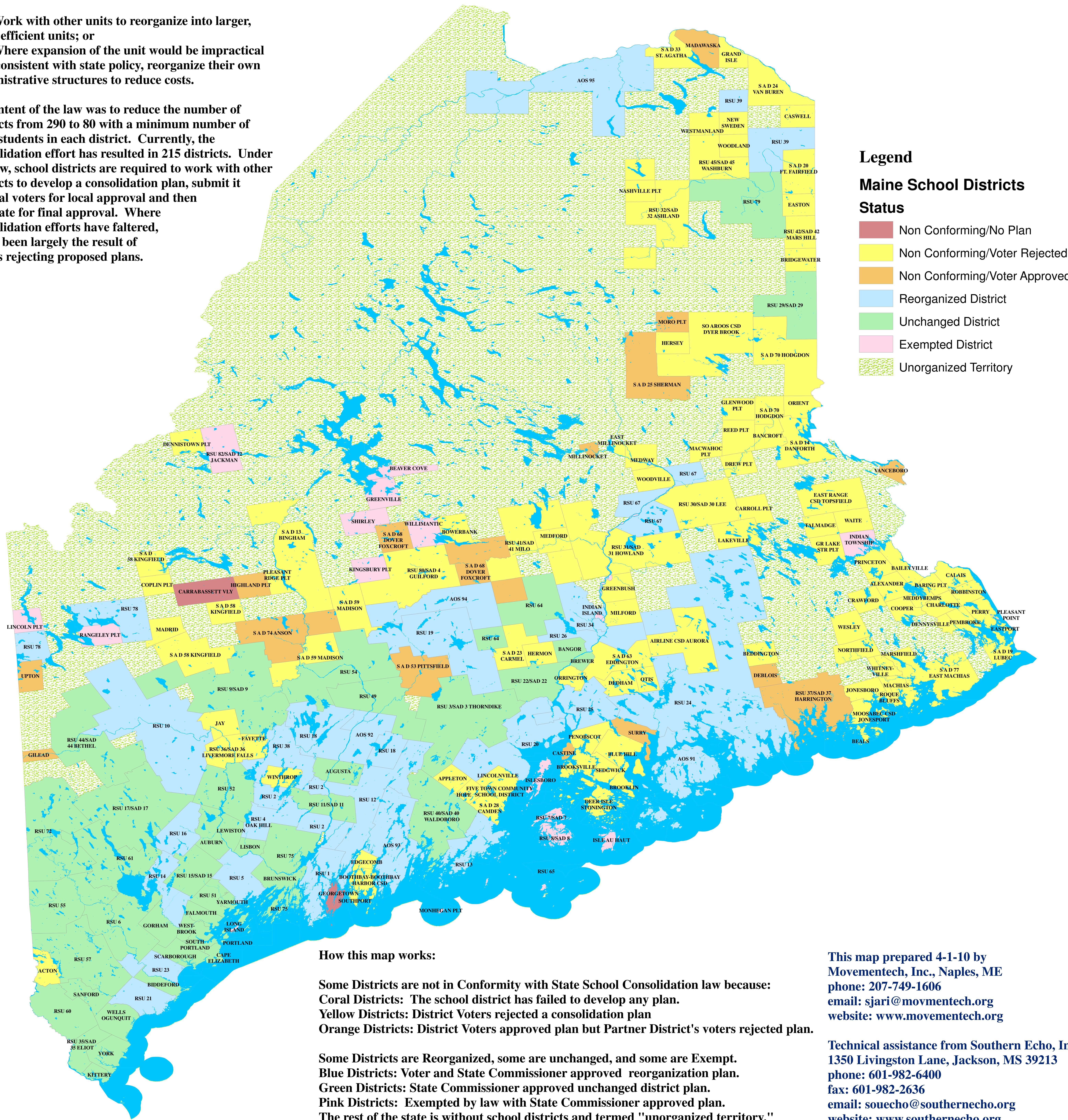
Public Law 2007, Chapter 240, Part XXXX passed on June 11, 2007 and Public Law 2007, Chapter 668 (enacted by passage of LD 2323, An Act to Remove Barriers to the Reorganization of School Administrative Units), passed on April 18, 2008, requires that all school units, of whatever form and whatever size - SADs, CSDs and municipal school units, small and large - must:

1. Work with other units to reorganize into larger, more efficient units; or
2. Where expansion of the unit would be impractical or inconsistent with state policy, reorganize their own administrative structures to reduce costs.

The intent of the law was to reduce the number of districts from 290 to 80 with a minimum number of 2500 students in each district. Currently, the consolidation effort has resulted in 215 districts. Under the law, school districts are required to work with other districts to develop a consolidation plan, submit it to local voters for local approval and then the state for final approval. Where consolidation efforts have faltered, it has been largely the result of voters rejecting proposed plans.

Despite claims from the state that the school districts that have engaged in consolidation were saving money, the state issued on March 3, 2010, a restated budget that includes \$70.7 million in cuts to school district allocations.

Three days after the Governor announced the budget cuts, the Maine state legislature took up proposed amendments to the law allowing districts to opt out of the consolidation program. According to the Kennebec Journal: "The changes recommended by the Education Committee would eliminate minimum size requirements that some rural districts have been unable to meet, and would let towns withdraw from new school districts they have joined."



Legend

Maine School Districts Status

- Non Conforming/No Plan
- Non Conforming/Voter Rejected
- Non Conforming/Voter Approved
- Reorganized District
- Unchanged District
- Exempted District
- Unorganized Territory

How this map works:

Some Districts are not in Conformity with State School Consolidation law because:

- Coral Districts:** The school district has failed to develop any plan.
- Yellow Districts:** District Voters rejected a consolidation plan
- Orange Districts:** District Voters approved plan but Partner District's voters rejected plan.

Some Districts are Reorganized, some are unchanged, and some are Exempt.

- Blue Districts:** Voter and State Commissioner approved reorganization plan.
- Green Districts:** State Commissioner approved unchanged district plan.
- Pink Districts:** Exempted by law with State Commissioner approved plan.

The rest of the state is without school districts and termed "unorganized territory."

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