

# Amherst and Pelham are exploring regionalizing our elementary schools.

## Here's what you should know.

### ***What are "regional" schools?***

A Regional School District is one school district shared by two or more towns. Towns share school services and buildings, and have one budget with one school committee.

### ***Don't Amherst and Pelham already share a school region?***

Amherst and Pelham are part of a regional school district for grades 7-12, but have our own districts for preK-6. Our two preK-6 districts do share a superintendent, curriculum and central office staff, but we don't get any additional state funding that regional school districts receive.

### ***Why would Amherst and Pelham consider doing this?***

To promote the long-term financial health of our schools and preserve more services through cost savings, and increase options for students. For example, the state reimburses transportation costs, and increases reimbursement on building projects for regional school districts.

### ***What kinds of things are being studied?***

A detailed cost-saving analysis, options for the composition of a shared school committee, rules for a shared funding agreement and rules for shared buildings and enrollments are some examples.

### ***What's the potential timeline for making this decision?***

2018 - Summer/Fall	Actively study the questions, conduct financial analyses
2018 - Fall/Winter	Begin ongoing public input and feedback
2019 - Spring	The Regional School District Planning Board makes a recommendation
2019 - Spring/Summer	If Yes, the Board and School Committees create a Regional Agreement
2019 - Fall	Pelham Town Meeting and Amherst town-wide vote
2020 - Winter/Spring	If Yes, transition to new region, to begin July 2020

### ***I have more questions. Where can I get more info?***

The Regional School District Planning Board web page at [bit.ly/APRegion](http://bit.ly/APRegion) is the central location for the most updated information. You can also contact the Board directly at [RSDPB@arps.org](mailto:RSDPB@arps.org).

## **We want your feedback!**

The Regional School District Planning Board was formed to study this idea, inform the public and gather input and feedback. We want to hear from you!

Consider sending a short message to [RSDPB@arps.org](mailto:RSDPB@arps.org). Let us know:

**What questions, concerns or input do you have about regionalization?**

## About the Board

The Regional School District Planning Board is a joint Board of the Towns of Amherst and Pelham, proposed by the Amherst and Pelham School Committees, approved by the Amherst and Pelham Town Meetings and appointed by the Amherst and Pelham Town Moderators. The Board members are:

### Amherst

- Peter Demling (Chair; school committee representative)
- Joan Temkin
- Marylou Theilman

### Pelham

- Emily Marriott (Vice-Chair)
- Cara Castenson (Secretary-Treasurer; school committee representative)
- Tom Fanning

The Board hold regular open meetings in Amherst and Pelham.

Contact the Board at [RSDPB@arps.org](mailto:RSDPB@arps.org), or visit our web page at [bit.ly/APRegion](http://bit.ly/APRegion).