



New Lebanon  
Central School  
District

To: New Lebanon CSD and Chatham CSD Board of Education Members  
From: Karen D. McGraw, Superintendent  
Date: January 27, 2012  
RE: Questions Raised

Attached to this email is a scanned copy of SED's guide to reorganization of school districts. Certain pages do not relate to us and have not been included. (pages 7-12 and pages 20-23). If you would like to view this document in its entirety, go to the [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov) website and search for "Guide to Reorganization of School Districts."

Additionally, the following are definitions from School Law, NYSSBA, 33<sup>rd</sup> edition:

**What is school district reorganization?**

*School district reorganization is the term used to define the statutory processes by which two or more school districts are merged into a single district or a school district is dissolved. The various methods of school district reorganization include centralization, annexation, consolidation, and dissolution, each of which has a different purpose and implication. Each reorganization procedure is limited in its application to one or more of the organizational types of school districts: for example, union free, central, common, and city school districts.*

**What is centralization?**

*Centralization is the most common form of reorganization. A new central school district is created by the merger of two or more contiguous districts, with a new school board and boundaries that encompass the area of the districts being reorganized. Under the Education Law, city school districts are not eligible for centralization.*

**What is consolidation?**

*Consolidation is a reorganization procedure that may involve the merger or any combination of common or union free school districts to form a new common or union free school district. Central and city school districts may not participate in the consolidation of union free and/or common school districts.*

*However, consolidation may also involve the incorporation of districts contiguous to city school districts of cities with populations of less than 125,000 residents into the city school district. The resulting school district becomes known as an enlarged city school district. Similar to annexation, the district to be consolidated will cease to exist.*

As you can see from the definitions, centralization is the type of reorganization we are considering so for our purposes the words consolidation and merger are interchangeable.



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**The answer to the question about the longevity of the additional 30% building aid is: A contract must be signed within 10 years of centralization.**