

## Regionalization Fact Sheet #3

### WHAT IS REGIONALIZATION?

Regionalization is the process of combining two or more school districts into one all-purpose regional school district. In this case, the Greenwich Township and Bloomsbury School Districts would be dissolved and the two would unite to form one all-purpose regional school district responsible for the education of all PK-12 students residing in both communities. The regional school district would educate students in grades PK-8 and students in grades 9-12 would continue to attend Phillipsburg High School.

### ONGOING COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Both Greenwich Township and Bloomsbury community members will be invited to attend information sessions. The sessions will provide up-to-date information regarding the potential regionalization of the school districts and will afford participants the opportunity to ask relevant questions.

### TO DO

1. Boards of Education of Greenwich Township and Bloomsbury are required to pass resolutions and to adopt a proposal for regionalization.
2. The Commissioner of the NJ Department of Education is required to approve regionalization before the Boards are permitted to take further action. The Commissioner will review the resolutions, impact assessment, and recommendations of the Warren County and the Hunterdon County Executive County Superintendents before arriving at a decision.
3. If the Commissioner approves, the Boards are required to put the question to the voters of both communities.

### CHOICE STUDENTS

Non-resident choice students currently enrolled in the Greenwich Township and Bloomsbury School Districts would be choice students in the newly formed regional school district.

### TAX RATIO

The tax ratio will be determined before the ballot question is presented to the voters. The ballot question will include the tax ratio for both communities.



## BALLOT QUESTION

**Regionalization of the Greenwich Township and Bloomsbury School Districts cannot take place without the passage of ballot questions in both communities.** The first available date to hold a special school election is September 26, 2017 so both districts will remain intact for the 2017/18 school year.

In an effort to provide the most information possible, the boards will not put forth the vote until they can adequately present answers to relevant questions so that both communities are able to make informed decisions.

Community members will be notified when a date has been determined and registered voters will receive a sample ballot in advance of the election.

*“Considering all relevant factors, including educational, financial, and racial impacts of alternatives to the current educational configurations, regionalization is feasible.”*

### REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

If the districts regionalize, the first members to serve on this new Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:13-37, would be appointed by the Executive County Superintendents of both Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

Representation on the newly created regional Board will be determined by the overall population in each of the constituent municipalities, as established every ten years by the United States Census.

According to the 2010 Census, Bloomsbury’s population is 870 and Greenwich Township’s population is 5,712.

### IF THE BALLOT QUESTION PASSES ...

... a regional Board of Education will be appointed by the Executive County Superintendents of both Hunterdon and Warren Counties. The Executive County Superintendents will review letters of interest and resumes submitted by community members interested in serving on the regional board.

### IF THE BALLOT QUESTION FAILS ...

... the school districts will remain independent school districts.

### PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

The budget share would be based either on municipal equalized valuation in light of student enrollment within the district; the number of students enrolled in the regionalized district from that municipality in proportion to the entire student enrollment; or some combination of these two options.



## DEBT BURDEN

Bloomsbury does not presently maintain long term debt, but does owe the Phillipsburg School District \$107,904 which is the balance of the 2015/16 after audit adjustment. It is expected that Bloomsbury will repay the Phillipsburg School District in full in the 2020/21 school year.

Greenwich maintains long-term debt, in the form of bonds, which was incurred in connection with construction costs for the school buildings. Bonds will be paid off in June 2018, June 2021, and June 2023.

The bond to be paid off in June 2018 will reduce Greenwich's annual debt burden by \$938,875 and will NOT be assumed by the regional school district because it will be paid off before the potential regionalization. The June 2021 pay off will further reduce Greenwich's debt obligation by \$151,757. The final bond to be paid off in June 2023 will eliminate Greenwich's debt burden of \$439,350.

If the districts regionalize, outstanding debt obligations will be assumed by the newly formed school district.

### STAY INFORMED

Sign up for email notifications.

### GREENWICH TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

- ⇒ Go to [www.gtsd.net](http://www.gtsd.net)
- ⇒ Click on Merger/Consolidation Information on the home page
- ⇒ Click on the email icon to subscribe to GTSD Merger/Consolidation Information by Email
- ⇒ Enter your email address and required text
- ⇒ Click on Complete Subscription Request

### BLOOMSBURY RESIDENTS

- ⇒ Go to [www.bburys.org](http://www.bburys.org)
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- ⇒ Click on the icon to subscribe to BSD Merger/Consolidation Information by Email
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