

Exploring Withdrawal from MSAD 58

The formal process of exploring withdrawal from a school district involves 20+ detailed steps, each ensuring that the decision is carefully evaluated and planned. Initiating the process empowers us to assess whether withdrawal is a practical and beneficial solution for our children and community as a whole. Without it, we lack access to crucial data to help us make an informed decision.

**** Importantly, we can stop the process at any time if we decide not to proceed further.**

Why might we want to explore leaving the school district now?

Local Control	If Strong manages our own independent district instead of being part of a larger one, we will regain local control of our childrens' overall educational experience, from curriculum and staffing to school policy, budgets and building maintenance.
Quality of Education	According to the MSAD 58 facilities maintenance report, the district's four schools require ~\$11.6 million in repairs over the next 5 years alone. MSAD 58 will soon be paying substantially more money to repair and maintain its buildings than it will be to educate our children.
State Support	With declining enrollment, MSAD 58's buildings are under capacity, resulting in less financial support from the state, and we pay the difference. Strong has the most pupils in the district, which gives us a larger state contribution to subsidize education.

Community Identity	Schools are a large part of a town's identity. They attract families to the area and reflect the community's unique values and priorities. Our elementary kids were already split between Phillips & Kingfield. Now the decision to possibly close our town school lies solely with the school board.
Potential Shortfalls	The school budget proposal doesn't allocate <i>any</i> add'l funds to begin covering major building repairs as we wait for the board to decide on consolidation. Nor is there a known plan to cover the shortfall for special ed services and Title I positions if our federal funding is revoked. This calls the district's planning into question when taxpayers are legally obligated to fund education.
Fiscal Responsibility	With all these external factors, can Strong residents reasonably afford multiple years of an <i>increase of over a mil in taxes</i> for each property? Not to mention we will be undergoing revaluation next year, increasing both our property values and our required local share of the school budget.

We must ask ourselves: are we paying more into this district than our children are benefitting from? If so, we should consider withdrawing. However, until we start the process, we can not determine the full impact of withdrawal.

So let's get the ball rolling by voting **YES** to exploring the details so we can make the best educated decision for our kids and our community!

Exploring withdrawal from MSAD 58

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Collect signatures

Gather signatures from at least 10% of residents who voted in the last gubernatorial race.



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Petition the selectboard

Present the citizens' petition for the town to explore withdrawing from MSAD 58.



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Hold a public hearing

Come to the Forster Memorial Building on **APRIL 28th at 6PM** to discuss the withdrawal exploration.



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Vote on May 8th

Residents vote to allow Strong to begin researching withdrawal from MSAD 58.



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Submit notice of intent

Strong provides written notice to the MSAD 58 school board & ME commissioner of education.



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Begin research

We form a committee to do the withdrawal research & present the findings to Strong residents.

