

# ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- M.S.A.D.#52

Contact Information:

Name: Darlene A. Burdin  
Address: M.S.A.D.#52  
486 Turner Center Rd.  
Turner, ME 04282  
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email: dburdin@msad52.org

Date Plan Submitted by SAU: April 30, 2008

**The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?**

YES       NO

(If NO, please explain.)

**Alternative Plan Cover Sheet**  
(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance <sup>1</sup>
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
<b>system administration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>transportation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>special education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>facilities and maintenance</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
			Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? <i>(not required, but encouraged)</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: **2182**

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Assistance Needs –**

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of your assistance need	Assistance needed from whom?
**In the Commissioner's letter dated Dec. 14, 2007, we were advised the Department's Reorganization Management Team would be contacting us shortly to discuss our needs for assistance. We have not heard from the Team.		

M.S.A.D.#52's plan to address the reductions in funding include but are not limited to the following:

1. System Administration - \$557,859.00\*

- ✓ Eliminating the Assistant Superintendent position
- ✓ Eliminate the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent
- ✓ Move all administration in one location so can share responsibilities during the busy times
- ✓ Cross train employees
- ✓ Eliminate stipend for Affirmative Action and assign as part of an administrator's responsibility.

**Overall 22.24% reduction in this area; however we have gone from under EPS to over EPS.**

2. Transportation - \$1,579,752.00

- ✓ Verify State allocations to insure receiving appropriate amounts
- ✓ Reviewed bus routes using Transfinder and have reduced 2 bus runs.
- ✓ Eliminate two bus driver positions.
- ✓ Use vans to transport one or two students
- ✓ Review co-curricular/extra curricular/field trip costs – intending to combine some trips
- ✓ Sharing transportation for special education placements with neighboring districts.
- ✓ Change in policy for picking up students at combined bus stops.

**Overall 5 % increase in this area. This would have been a 5.5% increase if cuts had not been made.**

3. Buildings/Maintenance - \$2,701,770.00

- ✓ Elimination of custodial position.
- ✓ Deferred maintenance using reserve funds when appropriate
- ✓ Seek Revolving Renovation Funds
- ✓ Increase installation of energy efficient lighting and other energy saving methods- specifically, gymnasium lighting in two schools.
- ✓ Continue bulk purchases of cleaning materials
- ✓ Investigate possibilities for saving electricity during peak hours

**Overall 12.5% increase based on heating fuel costs, salaries, benefits and security needs. In addition we maintain a sewage treatment plant not considered in EPS.**

4. Special Education - \$2,648,945.00\*

- ✓ Eliminated a Special Education Coordinator
- ✓ Develop program to bring students back into district
- ✓ Offered space in program to neighboring districts
- ✓ Cross trained staff & bring staff into the central office location
- ✓ Funding an additional position through Local Entitlement
- ✓ Eliminated 1.5 special education teachers
- ✓ Consider sharing costs for out of district transportation
- ✓ Collaborate with other districts to offer TCI training by having our own trainer
- ✓ Reduce School Psych. Service time

**Overall .34% increase**

**\*Does not include raises in salaries, which are anticipated through salary negotiations yet to be completed.**

We are recommending all of the above in the budgeting process and will continue to review areas for possible savings.

As required by P.L.2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36 (6)(F) for Alternative Plan approval, we are providing this assurance that to the best of our knowledge, the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.

PLEASE NOTE: Commissioner Gendron at our School Board meeting on November 1, 2007 told our district, that we would receive language to assist with explaining the 5% special education reduction. We have not received this language.



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

April 11, 2008

Darlene Burdin, Superintendent  
MSAD 52  
486 Turner Center Road  
Turner, ME 04282

Dear Superintendent Burdin:

Thank you for the revised Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of MSAD 52 on March 28, 2008 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

**General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)**

- All information submitted as required.

**Checklist/Plan Text Items**

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

**\* Required Items**

The language in the reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) requires that ". . . the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program". Please provide an assurance to that effect in the plan; Department staff will check that assurance

against data that was required to be submitted to the MEDMS Financial System in August, 2007.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

#### **SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:**

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by June 13, 2008.  
Please include:

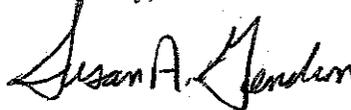
- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Gendron  
Commissioner of Education

cc: Gerald Clockedile