

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE TOWNS OF
ATKINSON, DANVILLE, PLAISTOW AND SANDOWN

1. The School Districts of Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown shall be combined to form a cooperative school district which shall be named Timberlane Regional School District.

2. There shall be nine members of the cooperative school board of the Timberlane Regional School District. The voters of each pre-existing district shall be entitled to elect qualified voters of their district as members of the school board by separate ballot at the annual town meeting held in each pre-existing district. All elected district officials shall be elected in the same manner as school board members. The pre-existing districts of Atkinson, Danville, and Sandown shall be entitled to two members and the pre-existing district of Plaistow, three members. The members of the cooperative school board who are elected and qualified at the organization meeting shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected at the annual meeting of the cooperative school district held in the years indicated below:

Atkinson	1 member	1966
	1 member	1967
Danville	1 member	1965
	1 member	1966
Plaistow	1 member	1965
	1 member	1966
	1 member	1967
Sandown	1 member	1965
	1 member	1967

All members of the cooperative school board shall be elected for three-year terms except those members elected at the organization meeting. The members of the cooperative school board shall assume office at the close of the organization meeting and thereafter at the close of the annual meeting.

All members of the cooperative school board shall be elected by the use of the non-partisan ballot system under RSA 59.

3. The Timberlane Regional School District shall be responsible for the public education of grades 1 through 12.

Pupils in the pre-existing districts shall be assigned by the Regional School Board to attend the elementary schools in the pre-existing districts in which they reside for no less than the first five years of formal schooling. Resident parents or guardians may voluntarily request that their grade 4 and/or grade 5 student(s) be assigned to another in-district public elementary school on an annual basis as long as seats are available and that no additional costs (transportation, etc.) be incurred by the School District. The Regional School Board may assign pupils to a school other than one in the pre-existing district in which they reside for the purpose of special education not available in the pre-existing district. Grades 6 through 12 may be maintained in central schools within the Cooperative District.

4. The Timberlane Regional School District shall acquire all the property, including equipment and district-owned buses, of the several pre-existing districts, and such property shall be conveyed to the Timberlane Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:9, in order that after appraisal by the State Tax Commission an equity shall be established for each of the pre-existing school districts. The following is the property that will be acquired by the Timberlane Regional School District:

Atkinson	Rockwell School, Academy School	Plaistow	Pollard School
Danville	Danville Elementary School	Sandown	Sandown Central School

5. The operating expenses of the Timberlane Regional School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned on the average daily membership of pupils residing in each pre-existing district of the cooperative school district during the second preceding fiscal year as determined by the State Department of Education.

6. The capital expenses of the Timberlane Regional School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned on the equalized valuation as most currently available as determined by the State Tax Commission.

7. A schedule of payments based on the sum of the respective shares of the pre-existing districts for operating expenses and capital expenses shall be established from time to time by the cooperative school board and the selectmen of the several towns.

8. The Timberlane Regional School District shall assume all the indebtedness of the pre-existing districts which is outstanding on the date of operation responsibility.

9. The State Foundation Aid to which each pre-existing district would be entitled if it were not part of the cooperative school district, shall be credited to such pre-existing district's share of the total operating budget.

Aid which may be available to the Timberlane Regional School District which has been computed by the State solely on a per pupil basis shall be applied to reduce the total operating budget prior to the apportionment of costs under the provisions of Article 5.

The State Building Aid which may be available to the Timberlane Regional School District shall be applied to reduce the total capital expenditure prior to the apportionment of costs under the provisions of Article 6.

Special School Aid which may be available as a result of legislative action to assist certain specific school districts, to which a pre-existing district of the Timberlane Regional School District may be entitled, shall be credited to that pre-existing district's share of the total operating budget.

Any other school aid which may be available shall be credited pursuant to a vote of the cooperative school board, unless otherwise provided by law.

10. All trust funds held by the pre-existing districts shall be held and applied to such pre-existing districts as the terms of the trust indicate.

11. The Timberlane Regional School District shall construct and equip a grade 7 through 12 Junior-Senior High School in the general location of the Plaistow-Hampstead-Atkinson line.

12. The Timberlane Regional School District shall provide transportation for all pupils grades 1 through 12, to the schools within the district, consistent with the provisions of RSA 189:6 and 189:8, except that until the Timberlane Regional Junior-Senior High School is operative, present regulations pertaining to high school transportation shall apply, and any cost to the Regional School District for this transportation shall be charged to the pre-existing district in which the students reside, who incur this expense.

13. The school property and buildings of the Timberlane Regional School District may be used as they are presently being utilized and for other civic and town purposes, as determined by policies adopted by the cooperative school board. The original Atkinson Academy building shall not have its front or tower altered in any manner which would destroy its historic value and appearance.

14. The date of the operating responsibility of the Timberlane Regional School District shall be July 1, 1965, as provided in RSA 195:5.

15. These Articles of Agreement may be amended by the Timberlane Regional School District, except that no amendment shall be effective, unless the questions of adopting such amendment is submitted at a cooperative school district meeting to the voters of the district voting by ballot with the use of the checklist after reasonable opportunity for debate in open meeting, and unless two-thirds of the voters of the district who are present and voting shall vote in favor of adopting such amendment. Furthermore, no amendment to these articles shall be considered except at an annual meeting of the cooperative school district and unless the text of such amendment is included in an appropriate article in the warrant for such meeting. It shall be the duty of the cooperative school board to hold a public hearing concerning the adoption of any amendment to these articles of Agreement at least ten days before such annual meeting and to cause notice of such hearing and the text of the proposed amendment to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the district at least fourteen days before such hearing. Until the date of operating responsibility is assumed, the Regional School Board is empowered to call a special district meeting under the procedures outlined above for the purpose of amending the Articles of Agreement.

Original approved:	April 30, 1964
Revised: Article 3	Sept. 4, 1970
Revised: Article 2	March 11, 1978
Revised: Article 3	March 5, 1994