

# Middlesex Act 46 Forums

Sat., May 20, 9-11:00 a.m. (at Town Hall) *or*  
Tues., May 23, 6-8:00 p.m. (at Rumney School)  
identical forums—choose one

## What is Act 46 and why should I care about it?

Act 46 is a law passed by the Vermont legislature in 2015, inspired by statewide concerns about rising property taxes, declining student enrollments, and an achievement gap among students. It requires Vermont school districts to explore new governance structures. *Act 46 has been called the most significant change in Vermont education law in 100 years.*

## Now is the moment.

The choices we make now could affect:

- the **quality** of our children's education;
- how much you **pay** for it; and
- how much **influence** you and your neighbors will have over these decisions in the future.

The decisions made today will affect us all for many years to come, so it's important to share your opinions now.



## At the forum you'll be able to:

- Learn about Act 46 and our town's options
- Have small-group conversations with neighbors about important issues affecting Middlesex
- Offer your opinion (if you want to)
- Share food, drink and conversation

## You won't:

- ...need to make a speech!

*Please pre-register if you'd like childcare. Details will be posted at [www.rumney.org](http://www.rumney.org)*

## What do you care most about?

...Cost?

...Education quality?

...Local democracy?

...Efficiency?

...Equity of student opportunity?

...Transparency/accountability?

...Sense of community?

*What do you feel are THE most important qualities for the Rumney School Board to incorporate into how we govern our schools?*

***Please attend, learn more, and share your opinions!***

## What's the big deal about Act 46?

Under Act 46, our five school districts (Middlesex, Worcester, Calais, Berlin, and East Montpelier) could merge. This would mean local school boards would be dissolved, and we'd have one board and one budget for all five towns plus U-32.

OR, we could decide we want to retain our local school boards and local budgets, and propose an alternative structure.

### Everyone wants to know...

- Will Act 46 raise my taxes? Lower them?
- Will our kids get a better education? A worse one? How will we know?
- How will it affect my voice in education and spending decisions?
- How might it affect Middlesex and the other towns in our area?
- Are there other options and configurations we should be exploring?
- Who will decide? And what are we supposed to do about it?

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