

MAINE 20-A M.R.S. § 1101 (2003) § 1101. Organization of school administrative units It is declared policy of the State to encourage the development of school administrative units of sufficient size to provide: 1. OPPORTUNITY. A more equalized educational opportunity for pupils; 2. PROGRAMS. Satisfactory school programs; 3. TAX RATES. A greater uniformity of school tax rates among the units; and 4. PUBLIC FUNDS. A more effective use of the public funds expended for the support of public schools. **§ 2501. Shared service agreements** The school boards of 2 or more administrative units may file an application to the commissioner for the purpose of entering a shared service agreement to carry out a specified educational function. A shared service agreement may include, but is not limited to, the provision of an alternative educational program or an educational program setting in which some students may achieve at higher levels than with the prevailing modes of regular classroom instruction. A. The specific services to be provided and numbers of students to be served; B. The cost estimate for services or operational budget; C. The method of providing services and the designation of personnel to be employed; D. The method of sharing costs among the units; and E. The identification of the sharing units and the designation of the unit which shall administer the agreement. 2. APPROVAL. The commissioner shall either approve or reject the application based upon the conditions set forth in subsection 1. 3. SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL. If the commissioner approves the shared agreement, it shall be subject to approval by a majority of the members of the school boards of each administrative unit involved in the agreement before the agreement becomes effective. 4. DURATION OF AGREEMENT. An agreement which has been ratified is valid for the fiscal year beginning July 1st following the ratification vote and ending June 30th of the next calendar year. 5. STATE-LOCAL ALLOCATION. Expenses incurred under the agreement may be reported as an operating cost in addition to the items listed in section 15503, subsection 16. 6. SHARING COSTS. Costs for carrying out the agreement shall be shared in accordance with the terms of the agreement, but costs of administration of the agreement shall not exceed 10% of the total budget of the agreement. 7. RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT. A cooperative agreement may only be renewed upon reapplication to the commissioner and ratification by a majority of the members of each school board involved in the agreement.