

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

White Paper on Joint Schools, School Facilities and Superintendents: An Alternative Approach to Address Community Public Education

In areas of the US with declining student populations, local governments are increasingly turning to school consolidation as a cost-saving measure. Here in Virginia, the recent consolidation of schools in Williamsburg and James City County reflects this trend; state laws guide the methods of consolidation and help with decisions on shared payment and supervision. Locally, Lexington and Rockbridge County have long shared a high school. Before 1992, students from the Kerrs Creek and Effinger communities attended Lexington High School; since then, Lexington students have attended a consolidated Rockbridge County High School. The following paper concludes with a listing of the potential benefits of a local, system-wide consolidation and invites public discussion.