



## More students. More opportunities.

### The Motivation

- The school-aged population in Franklin County has been declining since the end of the 1990s
- Both Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley districts have struggled during population decline because state funding is heavily dependent on population increase
- Population and budget constraints make it harder to offer electives, sports, and AP classes

### The Plan for a Combined District:

#### Great River Regional School District

- The Pioneer building would become a middle school for all students in the district
- The Turners Falls building would become a high school for all students in the district
- With larger numbers, the district could provide more robust academic and enrichment opportunities at the middle and high school



### Combining Districts to Benefit Students

Faced with the challenges of a declining school-aged population, the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick sought to create a sustainable educational future for their students with robust offerings. The six towns created a regional planning board in 2019 to study a potential merging of the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional districts to explore a new, six-town regional school district.

Over the past six years, the Planning Board has worked to examine the challenges and benefits of combining these two districts. The Planning Board engaged expert consultants in studying various dimensions of such a merger. The Planning Board sought the perceptions and perspectives of the students, parents, school district staff, community members, elected officials, and business partners in these communities.

In January 2024, the Planning Board overwhelmingly recommended moving forward with the drafting of a regionalization agreement.

**The proposed six town regional agreement, written in collaboration by members of each town, will be voted on at each Town Meeting to be held sometime in November. Visit the website to stay up to date.**

Learn more at  **6TOWNS.org**