

**Colorado School Finance Project**

**Table 1: Comparison of States in Terms of Number of School Districts, Number of Other Governmental Districts, Size of School Districts and Land Area of School Districts**

State	Number of School Districts, Multi-District Education Agencies, and Statewide Education Agencies					Enrollment in School Districts, Dry Land Area of State, and Number of All Local Governments in State										Factors that Could be Used to Evaluate Need for Consolidation			
	Total	School Districts (Ind and Dep)	Multi-District Agencies	State-Level Agencies	Chart. School Agencies Ind. of School Districts	Enrollment	Proportion of Districts of Various Student Enrollment Levels				Proportion of Students in Districts of Various Student Enrollment Levels				Area (Square Miles)	Total Local Govts	Proportion of Students in Small Districts	Average Square Miles per School District	School Districts as a Proportion of Local Govts
							600-1,500	300-600	100-300	Less than 100	600-1,500	300-600	100-300	Less than 100					
AL	134	133	0	1	0	741,758	12.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	50,744	1,185	3.0%	382	11.2%
AK	54	53	0	1	0	133,288	15.1%	28.3%	24.5%	9.4%	6.0%	4.9%	1.9%	0.2%	571,951	177	13.0%	10,792	29.9%
AZ	621	238	15	2	366	1,094,454	13.4%	11.8%	14.3%	12.6%	3.6%	1.3%	0.6%	0.2%	113,635	645	5.7%	477	36.9%
AR	292	254	15	3	20	474,206	43.3%	20.5%	0.0%	0.8%	22.0%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	52,068	1,548	27.4%	205	16.4%
CA	1,130	989	132	9	0	6,437,202	14.4%	11.4%	12.0%	10.4%	2.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.1%	155,959	4,344	3.5%	158	22.8%
CO	201	178	21	1	1	779,826	19.1%	17.4%	25.8%	5.1%	4.1%	1.6%	1.2%	0.1%	103,718	2,416	7.0%	583	7.4%
CT	199	169	6	7	17	575,059	17.8%	11.8%	8.3%	0.6%	5.8%	1.6%	0.5%	0.0%	4,845	649	7.9%	29	26.0%
DE	35	19	1	2	13	120,937	15.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1,954	338	3.0%	103	5.6%
FL	74	67	0	2	5	2,675,024	9.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	53,927	1,623	30.0%	805	4.1%
GA	206	182	16	5	3	1,598,461	11.5%	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	57,906	1,439	1.5%	318	12.6%
HA	2	1	0	1	0	182,818	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6,423	19	0.0%	6,423	5.3%
ID	126	125	0	1	0	261,982	22.4%	17.6%	17.6%	6.4%	11.7%	3.8%	1.7%	0.1%	82,747	1,240	17.3%	662	10.1%
IL	1,082	873	204	5	0	2,111,706	32.1%	18.3%	11.7%	3.2%	13.0%	3.5%	1.0%	0.1%	55,584	6,994	17.6%	64	12.5%
IN	364	294	29	4	37	1,035,074	33.0%	1.7%	3.1%	0.0%	10.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	35,867	3,231	10.8%	122	9.1%
IA	378	365	12	1	0	483,482	38.1%	28.5%	12.1%	2.5%	26.3%	9.9%	1.9%	0.1%	55,869	1,954	38.3%	153	18.7%

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State	Total	School Districts (Ind and Dep)	Multi-District Agencies	State-Level Agencies	Chart. School Agencies Ind. of School Districts	Enrollment	Proportion of Districts of Various Student Enrollment Levels				Proportion of Students in Districts of Various Student Enrollment Levels				Area (Square Miles)	Total Local Govts	Proportion of Students in Small Districts	Average Square Miles per School District	School Districts as a Proportion of Local Govts
							600-1,500	300-600	100-300	Less than 100	600-1,500	300-600	100-300	Less than 100					
KS	335	323	0	12	0	467,285	24.8%	26.6%	20.4%	2.2%	15.5%	8.1%	3.0%	0.1%	81,815	3,931	26.7%	253	8.2%
KY	195	175	18	2	0	679,878	22.9%	6.3%	2.3%	0.0%	6.1%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	39,728	1,346	7.0%	227	13.0%
LA	88	68	0	7	13	654,526	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	43,562	526	0.5%	641	12.9%
ME	331	287	39	4	1	195,498	17.8%	10.5%	21.3%	15.0%	25.6%	6.6%	5.6%	1.1%	30,862	850	39.0%	108	33.8%
MD	26	24	0	1	1	860,020	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9,774	256	0.0%	407	9.4%
MA	395	250	86	1	58	971,909	24.0%	8.8%	12.0%	1.6%	6.9%	1.1%	0.6%	0.0%	7,840	861	8.6%	31	29.0%
MO	831	552	57	4	218	1,741,845	28.8%	11.1%	9.1%	5.3%	10.5%	1.6%	0.6%	0.1%	56,804	2,893	12.8%	103	19.1%
MN	558	340	59	6	153	839,243	34.1%	20.9%	11.8%	3.8%	13.7%	3.9%	0.9%	0.1%	79,610	3,526	18.6%	234	9.6%
MS	163	152	0	11	0	494,954	23.7%	3.3%	2.0%	1.3%	8.1%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	46,907	1,000	8.7%	309	15.2%
MO	532	524	0	4	4	917,705	27.7%	18.9%	21.6%	7.1%	14.6%	4.6%	2.4%	0.2%	68,886	3,723	21.9%	131	14.1%
MT	504	425	77	2	0	145,416	7.5%	11.5%	28.5%	48.2%	21.0%	14.6%	15.2%	5.3%	145,552	1,273	56.1%	342	33.4%
NE	309	269	36	4	0	286,646	15.6%	29.7%	37.5%	1.5%	12.9%	11.7%	7.1%	0.1%	76,872	2,659	31.8%	286	10.1%
NV	19	17	0	1	1	412,395	29.4%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	1.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	109,826	198	1.4%	6,460	8.6%
NH	269	183	81	1	4	205,767	21.3%	17.5%	15.8%	14.2%	19.9%	7.2%	2.8%	0.7%	8,968	545	30.6%	49	33.6%
NJ	648	593	0	1	54	1,395,602	24.1%	13.7%	9.9%	2.7%	10.3%	2.6%	0.9%	0.1%	7,417	1,383	13.9%	13	42.9%
NM	96	95	0	1	0	326,758	13.7%	20.0%	18.9%	6.3%	4.1%	2.8%	1.0%	0.1%	121,356	863	8.1%	1,277	11.0%
NY <sup>1</sup>	819	697	38	5	79	2,815,581	30.0%	12.5%	5.2%	2.3%	8.1%	1.4%	0.3%	0.0%	47,214	3,403	9.8%	68	20.5%
NC	226	125	0	2	99	1,416,436	5.6%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	48,711	963	0.6%	390	13.0%
ND	239	198	38	3	0	98,283	5.6%	17.7%	42.9%	27.8%	9.2%	14.7%	16.9%	2.3%	68,976	2,699	43.1%	348	7.3%
OH	1,044	614	109	4	317	1,839,683	35.2%	3.9%	1.0%	0.5%	13.1%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	40,948	3,702	13.9%	67	16.6%

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							600-1,500	300-600	100-300	Less than 100	600-1,500	300-600	100-300	Less than 100					
OK	600	540	0	3	57	634,739	21.1%	25.4%	31.5%	7.2%	17.2%	9.2%	5.4%	0.4%	68,667	1,880	32.2%	127	28.7%
OR	220	199	20	1	0	552,194	19.6%	9.5%	15.6%	15.1%	6.4%	1.5%	1.1%	0.2%	95,997	1,546	9.3%	482	12.9%
PA	730	501	101	11	117	1,830,684	26.7%	2.6%	0.2%	0.2%	8.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	44,817	4,871	8.8%	89	10.3%
RI	50	32	4	13	1	153,422	3.1%	9.4%	3.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	1,045	134	1.3%	33	23.9%
SC	118	101	13	4	0	701,544	12.9%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30,109	698	2.0%	298	14.5%
SD	191	171	17	3	0	122,012	15.8%	23.4%	42.7%	6.4%	20.4%	13.5%	12.1%	0.5%	75,885	1,983	46.5%	444	8.6%
TN	137	136	0	1	0	953,928	16.9%	3.7%	0.7%	0.0%	2.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	41,217	928	2.7%	303	14.7%
TX	1,266	1033	20	16	197	4,525,394	24.9%	16.2%	17.9%	3.5%	5.5%	1.7%	0.8%	0.1%	261,797	4,835	8.6%	253	21.4%
UT	82	40	4	2	36	508,430	12.5%	7.5%	5.0%	5.0%	1.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	82,144	599	1.6%	2,054	6.7%
VT	353	292	60	1	0	96,638	13.7%	14.0%	32.5%	19.5%	38.5%	18.0%	18.0%	4.0%	9,250	733	78.6%	32	39.8%
VA	226	134	69	23	0	1,214,472	13.4%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	39,594	511	1.7%	295	26.2%
WA	307	296	10	1	0	1,031,985	18.6%	10.8%	14.9%	13.9%	5.3%	1.4%	0.9%	0.2%	66,544	1,845	7.8%	225	16.0%
WV	59	57	0	2	0	280,866	14.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	24,078	663	3.3%	422	8.6%
WI	445	425	17	3	0	875,174	36.5%	22.6%	8.7%	0.9%	17.3%	5.0%	0.9%	0.0%	54,310	3,120	23.2%	128	13.6%
WY	67	52	14	1	0	84,409	32.7%	15.4%	9.6%	1.9%	16.7%	3.7%	1.1%	0.1%	97,100	726	21.6%	1,867	7.2%
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>17,376</b>	<b>13,860</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>49,036,598</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>3,537,379</b>	<b>89,474</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

Calculated using data from the following sources: (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2009); (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2009); (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004).

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The central group of columns in Table 1 shows the distribution of small school districts (those with fewer than 1,500 students) in terms of four size categories for each state. APA focused on these districts because they have typically been the target of consolidation efforts in the past. Nationally, 57.3 percent of all districts have fewer than 1,500 students. In 13 states, fewer than 25 percent of all school districts have less than 1,500 students while in nine states, more than 75 percent of all districts have fewer than 1,500 students.