

be conducted by one or more member of the State Department of Education, as designated by the President of the State Board of Education.

6. If a majority vote at such election is in favor of consolidation, the State Board of Education shall issue a written order to such effect, declaring the participating school districts dissolved and the new school district established. Copies of such order shall be sent to the county treasure, county assessor, county assessor, county clerk and county election board of each county in which the districts involved are situated, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the State Election Board, and to the board of education of each school district involved. If a majority vote at such election is not in favor of consolidation, the State Board of Education shall make a written order to such effect, and shall send a copy thereof to the board of education of each school district involved.
7. The local board of education members representing the school district having the largest number of children shall serve as board members of the newly formed school district for the remainder of their term. (On the effective date of consolidation, the districts are dissolved and a new district is formed with a new district number.)
8. All liabilities, debts, assets, powers and duties shall become the responsibility of the newly formed school district.

### **Teacher Status Because of Annexation or Consolidation**

State law provides that “No district shall be liable for the payment of compensation to a teacher or administrator under the provisions of any contract for the ensuing year, if it becomes necessary to close the school because of annexation or consolidation...provided such cause is known or action is taken prior to July 1 of the ensuing year.”

The term “school” refers to a high school, middle school, junior high school, or elementary school, not a district, unless all the schools of a district were closed. (Example: If district “A” annexed to district “B” and decided to leave the elementary school in district “B” open and to close the high school, the teachers of high school district “B” would not necessarily be given employment in the new district, but the elementary teachers would).

Another variable in this situation is “action prior to July 1.” If a consolidation or annexation occurs at midyear, the new district must use its reduction in force policy or employ all the teachers. If the new board of education elects to utilize any part of a “school,” then all teachers in that “school” must be retained.

### **Dispensing with a School or a School District**

A high school, an elementary school, or both may be dispensed with by a majority vote of the qualified electors.

1. Should residents of a school district desire to dispense with all or part of a school district, it is the duty of the State Superintendent to notify the State Board of Education of a majority vote of eligible electors at an annual or special election or by a petition signed by sixty (60) percent of eligible school district electors to dispense with either grades 1 thru 8 or grades 9 thru 12, or both, and such procedure shall be accomplished prior to June 30. Subsequently, parents of such children in the dispensed grades should file an application for transfer for the ensuing year with the State Superintendent. Any district which dispenses with its entire school district for the ensuing year shall be mandatorily annexed on July 1 by the State Board of Education to an adjacent school district(s) to which pupils have been transferred.