ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- Isle au Haut

Contact Information:

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Sargentville, ME
04673

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Date Plan Submitted by SAU: 11/30/07

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?

☒ **YES** ☐ **NO**

(If NO, please explain.)

☒ Initial Receipt ☐ Revision (Version #_____)
Received: 12/3/07
Initial Review: 12/4/07
Review Completed: ___/___/___
Commissioner Response
☐ Approved ☐ Revise & Return
Returned to SAU: ___/___/___
Revisions due to Department: ___/___/___
Initial Plan Received (if revision): ___/___/___

Received

DEC 03 2007

Maine Department of Education

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance[1]
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	☒	☐	☐	☐
transportation	☒	☐	☐	☐
special education	☒	☐	☐	☐
facilities and maintenance	☒	☐	☐	☐
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	☒	☐	☐	☐
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	☒	☐	☐	☐
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	☐	☐	☐	☐
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	☒	☐	☐	☐
No displacement of teachers	☒	☐	☐	☐
No displacement of students	☒	☐	☐	☐
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	☒	☐	☐	☐

Collaborative Agreements		
	Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? *(not required, but encouraged)*	☒	☐

[1] **Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.**

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 12

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	☒	☐	☒
Demographics	☐	☐	☐
Economics	☐	☐	☐
Transportation	☐	☐	☐
Population Density	☐	☐	☐
Other Unique Circumstances	☒	☐	☒

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of your assistance need	Assistance needed from whom?

ISLE AU HAUT RURAL SCHOOL

ALTERNATIVE PLAN NOVEMBER 30, 2007

Maine Island Schools Collaborative

The Maine Island Schools Collaborative includes twelve island schools: Long, Chebeague, Vinalhaven, North Haven, Islesboro, Monhegan, Matinicus, Frenchboro, Islesford, Great Cranberry, Isle Au Haut and Swans. As its foundation MISC will use the Educational Service District Model as outlined by Stephen Bowen of the Maine Heritage Policy Center. The common bond of being island schools which brings us together also makes it extremely difficult to create efficiencies and to attain the state policy objectives as outlined by the state in the new school consolidation law.

Until recently the degree of collaboration among island schools has been limited. MISC has formed as a response to the state expectation that all schools will utilize efficiencies to reduce costs in targeted areas. This collaborative intends to fully explore and, whenever practical, join together to reduce costs. Historically, each of the island schools have had collaborative agreements or working relationships with their mainland neighbors. The Isle au Haut Rural School will continue to work toward further developing their relationships with mainland counterparts, while at the same time developing collaborative cost reductions that benefit the students and communities of all member schools.

In keeping aligned with the intent of the state objectives, MISC proposes to adopt three major goals:

- To to maximize the use of existing resources to benefit all island students
- To look for ways to create efficiencies wherever possible
- To continue to work with mainland neighbors in meeting common objectives

Island schools will participate, to the extent feasible, in the Maine Island School Collaborative with the goal of sharing services, resources, and expertise to maintain and promote the excellence of island education. The Maine Island School Collaborative will partner with the Island Institute to develop proposals for sharing services, such as:

- Fiscal management
- Technology and data processing
- Library services
- Insurance coverage
- Energy conservation and management
- Staff development
- Curriculum development
- Student assessment and evaluation
- Low-incidence special education services
- Bulk purchasing of supplies
- Distance learning
- Student inter-island programming

Activities:

Representatives from each of the participating islands will meet twice a year to discuss and review potential areas of collaboration to achieve additional cost savings.

Inter-Island professional development activities will be planned on an ongoing basis.

Existing cooperative agreements and conversations with neigboring mainland school systems will be continued and augmented when possible.

Local Cost Containment/Reduction Plans

The Isle au Haut Rural School will examine each of the four cost centers for which the legislature established cost reduction targets: central office administration, building maintenance, special education and student transportation.

1. Administration - The school committee will negotiate with School Union 76 to reduce the cost of central office support functions including the stipend paid to the state agent and other management functions performed by school union personnel.

2. Building Maintenance - In recent years the school committee has invested considerable resources in improving and upgrading the school building. Once the current foundation renovation project is completed, a 5% reduction in overall building maintenance will be a reasonable objective.

3. Special Education - From 1993-94 through the 2005-06 school year , special education expenditures were annually zero or a fraction of 1% of the budget. After the enrollment of the first IAH special needs student in almost a generation, a reduction in special education at this time is unrealistic. Last year Isle au Haut collaborated with the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School to provide special education speech and occupational therapy services. The Isle au Haut teacher also

holds multiple special education and regular education certifications giving the school an efficient way to provide the necessary services.

4. Transportation - The Isle au Haut Rural School contracts with a local citizen for student transportation services at the very reasonable cost of $7,200 for the year. But several high school students now take the mailboat twice a day to attend Deer Isle-Stonington High School. The mailboat fare costs $3 per student per trip. The school system pays $25 per trip for contracted transportation from the mailboat dock to the high school each morning. In the afternoon the Isle au Haut Rural School collaborates with the Deer Isle-Stonington CSD for transportation back to the dock at no charge. The savings for this collaboration alone is equivalent to more than 25% of the overall cost of student transportation.

A Majority of the Isle au Haut School Committee

Susan MacDonald Kristen Barter

Bernadine G. Barter Diane B. Barter

Given under our hands this fifth day of November in the year 2007.