

**Proposed Merger Study Timeline
(Modeled From Center-Monaca Study Timeline)**

October Year 1	School Districts approve action to conduct a feasibility study on a proposed merger between the districts
November Year 1	Superintendents reach out to entities to aid with feasibility study (PA Economy League, Pennsylvania Dept. of Education, Tri-State, Pennsylvania Intermediate Units)
December Year 1	Create an Advisory Committee (ex. Superintendents, Business Managers, PDE Members, State Representative, State Senator, Intermediate Unit Representatives, Board Members from both districts)
January Year 2	The Advisory Committee meets at IU and works on securing funds from local legislators to conduct the feasibility study (In the case of Center- Monaca, the study cost approx. \$35,000 ¹)
March Year 2	Select and approve firm to conduct a feasibility study on a proposed merger- Maintain meetings with the Advisory Committee biweekly or monthly.
April Year 2	Begin to develop plan for usage of educational facilities and programming, governance, funding and suppose. Create several scenarios for a simulated merger to present with school boards, residents of the districts, and PDE
June-August Year 2	Present plan to community members to receive generated questions, begin to gather information on selected scenario for merger and begin budgetary planning and estimates
November-December Year 2	District begins working on curriculum/programming issues with a simulated merger. Examine financial issues related to a merger.
January-February Year 3	Select a management group to conduct a fiscal assessment on a proposed merger between the districts (ex. The Education Management Group's study for Center and Monaca, which cost \$18,000 ¹)
June Year 3	Review first draft of study with both school boards jointly
July Year 3	Have management group meet with both boards jointly to review any changes since the first draft
August Year 3	Meet with both school boards separately to discuss any concerns with the study. After any issues are hashed out, it is then up to both school boards to meet and discuss the road to the final decision regarding the merger along with the representatives from the Department of Education, state legislators, the superintendents, and the business managers.

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September Year 3 Public meeting to share and receive final feedback on the merger study.

It is a long and diligent process and in this scenario, it took approximately 24 months to complete.

Note: The timeline does not include the meetings and/or telephone discussions, in varying degrees, with the superintendents, various consultants, administrators, solicitors, PDE officials, legislators, and board members from both districts.

¹ **Consolidation became effective in July 2009 and any costs referenced are from that time period**