

PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
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PRESS RELEASE

**CONSOLIDATION OF THE PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP
AND ELMER BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

For several decades, the Boards of Education in Pittsgrove Township and Elmer Borough have sought to consolidate services to provide a cost-effective education for their respective students. In doing so, the Pittsgrove Township Board of Education and the Elmer Borough Board of Education entered into a sending-receiving relationship, which has been expanded multiple times over the years.

On July 19, 2017, the New Jersey Commissioner of Education took action to consolidate the Elmer Borough Board of Education with the Pittsgrove Township Board of Education, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:8-43*, et seq. This decision from the Commissioner has been anticipated for several years. The issue of consolidation has been a topic of discussion between the two Boards of Education for some time. Both Boards have worked together with the New Jersey Department of Education to ensure that any consolidation would be in the best interest of the communities and the students that the boards serve.

The students of Elmer Borough and Pittsgrove Township are currently being educated in the Elmer Borough Elementary School building. It is anticipated that this arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future. Additionally, as part of this consolidation, and in accordance with discussions held with the New Jersey Department of Education, the Pittsgrove Township Board of Education will purchase the Elmer Borough Elementary School building to ensure that it will continue to be available for use by the students of both Elmer Borough and Pittsgrove Township.

Pittsgrove Township Board of Education members will remain in office until the conclusion of their terms, after which there will be an election-at-large from the newly consolidated district. A representative from Elmer Borough will be appointed to the Board in the meantime, until the election-at-large takes place, and will serve as a full voting member of the Board. In the years following the 2017-18 school year, the tax levy for the operation of the newly consolidated school district will be apportioned between the two towns (Pittsgrove Township and Elmer Borough), based upon the percentage of enrolled students from each municipality.

Both Boards of Education anticipate little disruption to students and staff as a result of this consolidation. They will work collaboratively with one another and with the New Jersey Department of Education to ensure a seamless transition.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer - F/M