

THIS IS THE PETITION TO REORGANIZE FILLMORE COUNTY SCHOOL 30-0001, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE EXETER-MILLIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND TO REORGANIZE SALINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 76-0068, COMMONLY KNOWN AS FRIEND PUBLIC SCHOOL, BY DISSOLVING THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CREATING A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT.

PETITION

TO: The State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts And All Those Who Are Or May Be Concerned:

Signatories. The undersigned constitute sixty percent (60%) or more of the duly qualified and acting members of the Boards of Education (referred to herein individually as "board" or "board of education") of the following school districts:

Exeter-Milligan Public School District. Fillmore County School District 30-0001, commonly known as the Exeter-Milligan Public School District (referred to herein as the "existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District"), is an accredited Class III school district.

Friend Public School District. Saline County School District 76-0068, commonly known as the Friend Public School District, (referred to herein as the "existing Friend Public School District"), is an accredited Class III school district.

Creation of a New School District. The undersigned respectfully petition, and present the following Petition (referred to herein as "Petition"), to dissolve the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and to dissolve the existing Friend Public School District, and to create a new school district (referred to herein as the "New School District") pursuant to sections 79-413 and 79-415 and other applicable statutes of the State of Nebraska.

Proposed Plan. The proposed plan to dissolve the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District, to dissolve the existing Friend Public School District, and to create a New School District as set forth below.

I. DESCRIPTIONS AND A MAP OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EXISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

A. Description of Existing School Districts. The boundaries and geographic territory of the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District are shown on **Exhibit A**, which is attached hereto, incorporated herein, and made a part hereof by this reference.

B. Description of New School District. The boundaries and geographic area of the New School District created pursuant to this Petition will include the combined boundaries and geographic territory of the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District as shown on **Exhibit A**.

C. Map of the Boundaries of the Existing School Districts and the New School District. The map showing the boundaries of the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District, and the New School District proposed by this Petition are shown on **Exhibit A**.

D. Resolution of Conflicts. If the descriptions of the boundaries, the descriptions of territory, or the map in this Petition conflict with the official records and documents on file with the Fillmore County Assessor, the Saline County Assessor, and such other county officials who are required by law to maintain such records, the official records and documents of the county officials shall control regarding the proper legal descriptions and boundaries of the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District, and the New School District.

E. Inclusion/Exclusion of Territory. The petitioners intend to include in the New School District the entire geographic territory of the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District, which territory is legally within such school districts on the effective date of this Petition and the creation of the New School District. The petitioners intend to exclude from the New School District any geographic territory which is not legally within the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District on the effective date of this Petition and Plan for dissolving the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District, and creating the New School District.

II. SUMMARY OF THE TERMS ON WHICH THE REORGANIZATION IS TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE REORGANIZED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

- A. Effective Date.** The effective date to dissolve the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and to dissolve the existing Friend Public School District and to create a New School District shall be **1st day of July, 2025**
- B. Corporate Number.** In compliance with Nebraska statutes, the Nebraska Commissioner of Education will assign a corporate number to the New School District which will be created pursuant to this Petition.
- C. Classification of New School District.** The New School District shall be a Class III school district.
- D. Board of Education.**
1. **Number of Board Members.** The initial Board of Education of the New School District shall be composed of six (6) members.
 2. **Terms of the Appointed Board Members.** **Three (3) members of the initial Board of Education will have a "short term" ending the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January, 2028; and three (3) members will have a "long term" ending the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January, 2030.**
 3. **Appointment of Initial Board of Education.** The petitioners recommend that the State Reorganization Committee appoint three (3) board members from the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District Board of Education and three (3) board members from the existing Friend Public School District Board of Education. The Exeter-Milligan Public School District Board of Education shall recommend two (2) board members for a long term and one (1) board member for a short term. The Friend Public School District Board of Education shall recommend one (1) board member for a long term and two (2) board member for a short term.

4. **Terms of Subsequent Board Members.** The terms of all subsequent members of the New School District Board of Education shall be as provided by law.
5. **Filling Vacancies on the Initial Board of Education or of Board Members Elected From Temporary Wards.** If a vacancy occurs for the seat of a member of the initial Board of Education who was appointed pursuant to paragraph II(D)(3) above, the person whom the Board of Education appoints to fill the vacancy must, at the time of such appointment, reside within the boundaries of the former school district in which the board member whose seat has been vacated resided at the time of his or her appointment to the Board of Education. This provision shall apply only to the terms of office of those board members whom the State Reorganization Committee appointed to the initial Board of Education.

E. Bonded Indebtedness and Authority to Issue Bonds. The existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District has no bonded indebtedness on the date of the signing of this Petition. The Friend Public School District has bonded indebtedness on the date of the signing of this Petition. The liability such bonded indebtedness shall remain the obligation of the patrons in the district that incurred it, and shall not become the obligation of the New District

F. Petition Contingent Upon a Bond Election. This Petition is not contingent upon the success of a bond election.

G. Special Building Funds. Existing funds in the Special Building Funds of each district as of September 15, 2025, shall be allocated as follows:

1. Funds in the special building fund of the Exeter-Milligan School District as of September 15, 2025, shall be segregated into a separate fund within the special building fund and used solely for improvements to the school buildings and attendance facilities located in the existing Exeter-Milligan School District; and,
2. Funds in the special building fund of the Friend School District as of September 15, 2025, shall be segregated into a separate fund within the special building fund and used solely for improvements to the school buildings and

attendance facilities located in the existing Friend School District.

3. Funds in the special building fund of the consolidated district established for the 2025-2026 fiscal year may be used for building improvements within the new school district as determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Education.

H. Other Assets and Liabilities. The New School District shall assume the other indebtedness, assets, and liabilities of the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District and the existing Friend Public School District on the effective date of the creation of the New School District.

III. OTHER MATTERS

A. Use of Existing Buildings.

1. Upon the creation of the New School District, the facilities of the existing school districts shall be used, and schooling shall be provided in the following grades for the 2025-26 school year:
 - Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade shall be provided in Exeter.
 - Pre-Kindergarten and grades 6th through 12th grade shall be provided in Friend
 - The Milligan site will not be utilized for educational purposes.
2. The mailing address of the New School District shall be initially located in the school building in Friend. The location of the Office of the Superintendent and all other school district offices shall be determined by the Board of Education of the New School District as it deems appropriate and feasible from time to time, in its sole and absolute discretion.

B. Change of Grades and Closure of School Buildings:

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, the New District Board of Education will have the authority to add or eliminate grade levels at its sites and to close sites. Provided however, any reduction in grade levels or closure of a site will require an affirmative vote of a "super" majority of the statutory number of members of the board. A "super majority vote" is defined as five

(5) out of six (6) board members votes for a six (6) member Board of Education, and seven (7) out of nine (9) board member votes for a nine (9) member Board of Education. Reducing or changing the grade level makeup shall mean completely removing one or more grade levels from any of the school buildings and attendance centers established in the Petition and plan.

- C. Transportation.** The transportation system of the New School District shall be governed by the New School District Board of Education in the manner that it deems to be in the best interests of the district.
- D. Modification.** The New School District Board of Education may modify the terms of this Petition for purposes of merging or reorganizing said New School District in the future with other school districts as provided by law.
- E. Severability.** It is the intention of the petitioners signing this Petition that if any provision shall be declared invalid by any tribunal, the remaining provisions of this Petition shall not be affected thereby. If any provision of this Petition is declared invalid by any tribunal, such provision shall be deemed automatically adjusted to conform to the requirements for validity as declared by any such tribunal at such time, and as so adjusted, shall be deemed a provision of this Petition as though originally included herein. If the invalidated provision is of such a nature that it cannot be adjusted the provision shall be deemed deleted from this Petition as though the provision had never been included herein. In any of the above cases, the remaining provisions of this Petition shall remain in effect and shall not be affected thereby.

Fillmore County School District 30-0001, commonly known as the **Exeter-Milligan Public School District**, respectfully petition the members of the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts to proceed with this Petition according to law to dissolve the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District, to dissolve the existing Friend Public School District and to create a New School District as provided herein.

**FILLMORE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
30-0001, a/k/a THE EXETER-MILLIGAN
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Saline County School District 76-0068, commonly known as the **Friend Public School District**, (referred to herein as the “existing Friend Public School District”), respectfully petition the officials to proceed with this Petition according to law to dissolve the existing Exeter-Milligan Public School District, to dissolve the existing Friend Public School District and to create a New School District as provided herein.

**SALINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 76-0068, a/k/a
THE FRIEND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**