



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2015

Statement from Jim Keith:

I want to clarify my statement regarding consolidation as those comments were taken out of context last Monday. There is no mechanism under Initiative 42 that would enable a judge to force a school district to consolidate with another district. The Legislature, of course, can consolidate districts as has been shown in Bolivar County, Starkville/Oktibbeha County, West Point/Clay County, and would retain that authority under Initiative 42. But there is no mechanism under current law or Initiative 42 for a court to make two separate districts consolidate. I should have been more clear in my comments that I was referencing the consolidation of schools within a district. That is the law today and Initiative 42 does not change that.

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