

CGR

Maximizing the High School Experience: Exploring Regional Options in Ontario County

Feasibility study paid for by NYS Local Government Efficiency Funds

Study Background

- ▶ Increasing fiscal pressures
- ▶ 2009 Wayne County Regional HS Study
- ▶ Ontario Districts with W-FL BOCES apply for NYS Grant
- ▶ Received LGE high-priority planning grant
- ▶ Engaged CGR in Spring 2011

Who is CGR?

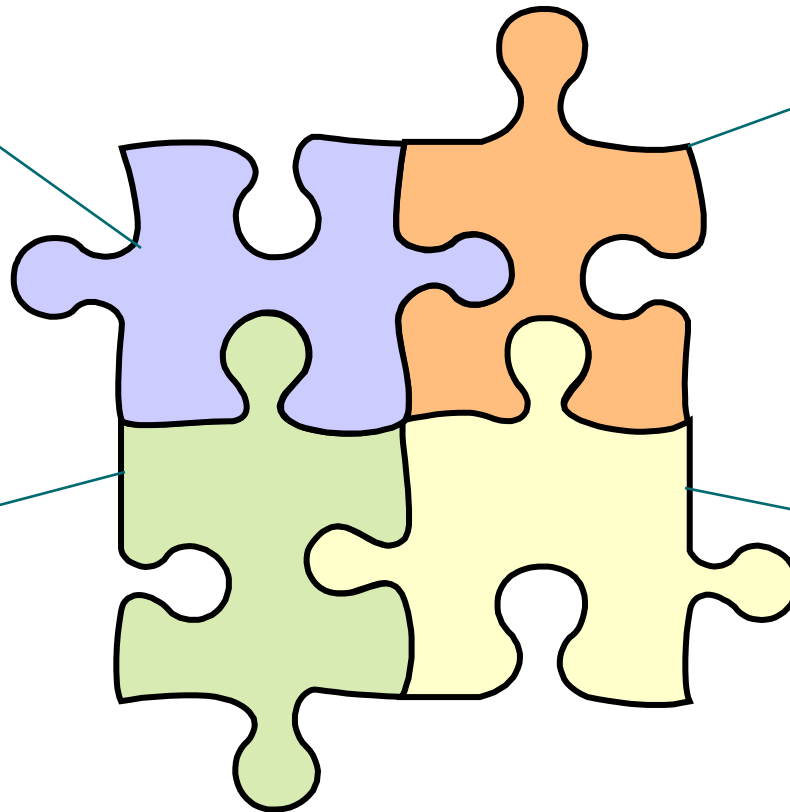
- ▶ **Center for Governmental Research**, 96 years in NYS
 - ▶ Founded to serve as an “independent, non-partisan agency for keeping citizens informed.”
 - ▶ Nonprofit mission: “*inform & empower*”
- ▶ **Project Staff**
 - ▶ Charles Zettek, Director
 - ▶ Kirstin Pryor, Senior Associate
 - ▶ Jaime Saunders, Senior Associate

More information available at

www.cgr.org

CGR: Expertise & Pragmatic Recommendations in Relevant Areas

Schools,
districts,
BOCES, &
higher ed



Shared &
Consolidated
Services

K-12
landscape
NYS &
national

Community
Change
Process

Dynamic Context & Challenges

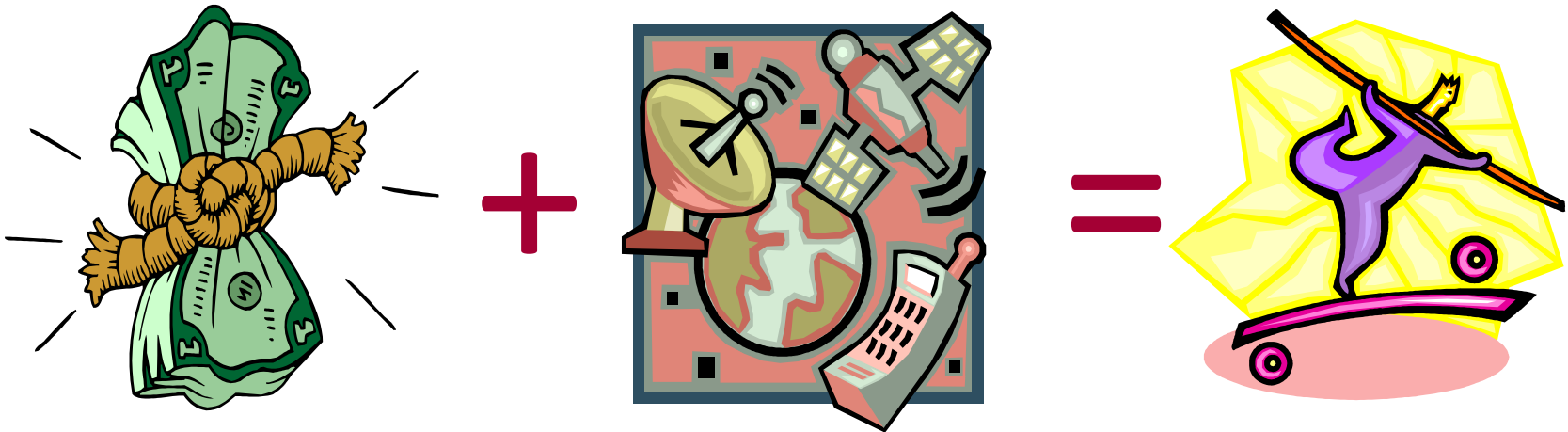
- ▶ Declining enrollment for most districts
- ▶ Declining state aid
- ▶ Property Tax Cap
- ▶ Increasing performance expectations (students & staff)
- ▶ Increasing accountability demands

Study's Purpose = Being Proactive

▶ Fiscal picture -
status quo
unsustainable

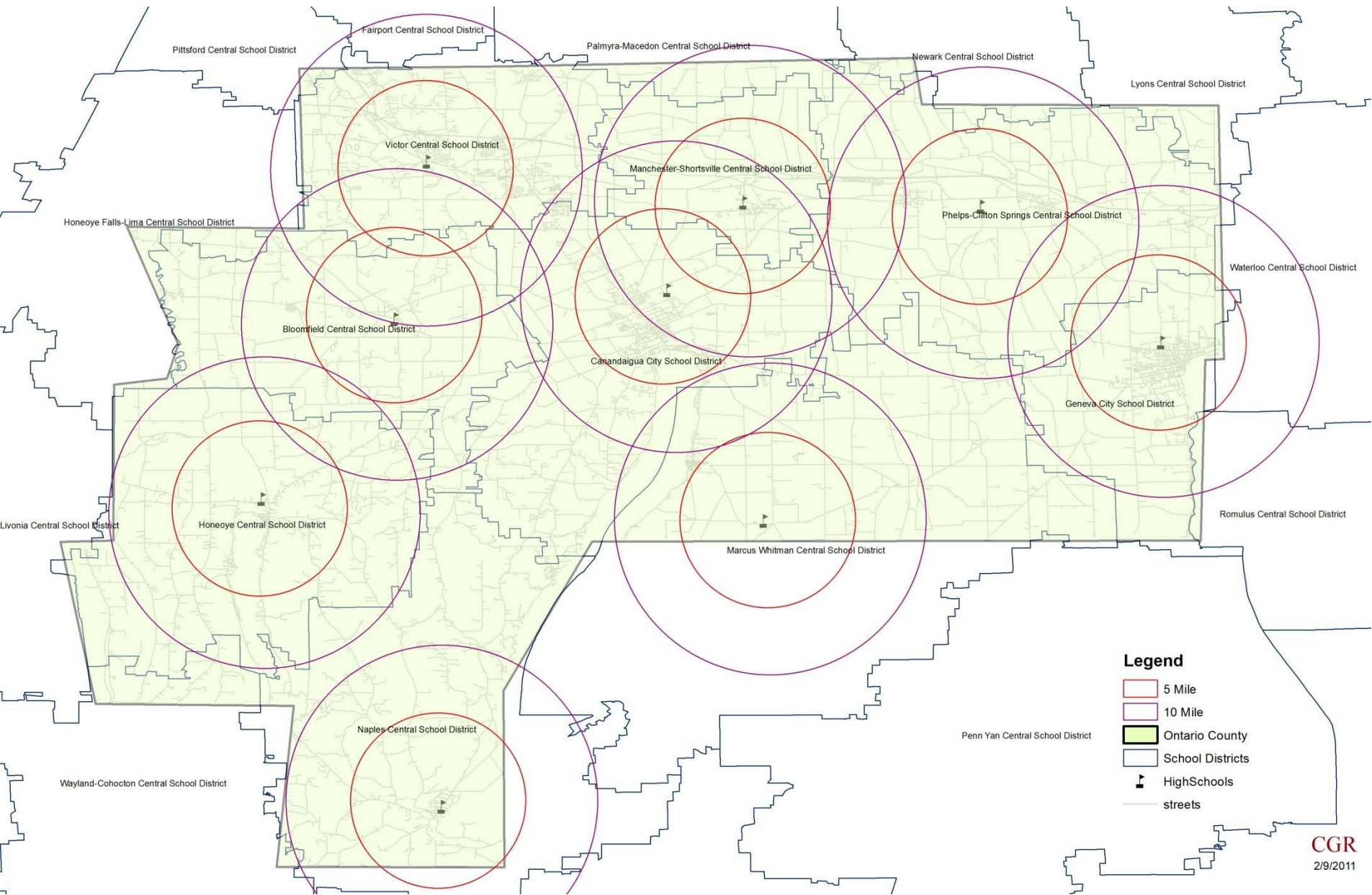
▶ Shift in what is
expected & how
students learn

= Need and
Opportunity to
explore options



Key Overarching Study Question

How can thinking regionally maximize the high school experience within the fiscal constraints facing local school districts?



What will the study answer?

- 1. What does each district currently provide for high school students?*
- 2. Are regional high schools a feasible option for Ontario County?*
- 3. Are there other regional options for providing a quality high school experience, within our means?*

Key Message about Study

*This study is a **strategic planning process** to help the regional community identify ways for districts to work together to address high school needs for the future.*

Overview of Process

Summer and Fall: What Exists & Alternatives

Task One – What Exists?

- ▶ Consistent description of the high school experience across all 9 districts
 - ▶ What do you offer?
 - ▶ What do students experience?
 - ▶ What does it cost? (staff, facilities, etc)
- ▶ How?
 - ▶ Site visits, staff interviews, boards, student survey
 - ▶ Data analysis (budgets, contracts, enrollment, etc.)

Overview of Process

Summer and Fall: What Exists & Alternatives

Task Two - Alternatives

- ▶ Research Options

- ▶ Service sharing
- ▶ Consolidation
- ▶ New ways of providing learning opportunities

- ▶ How?

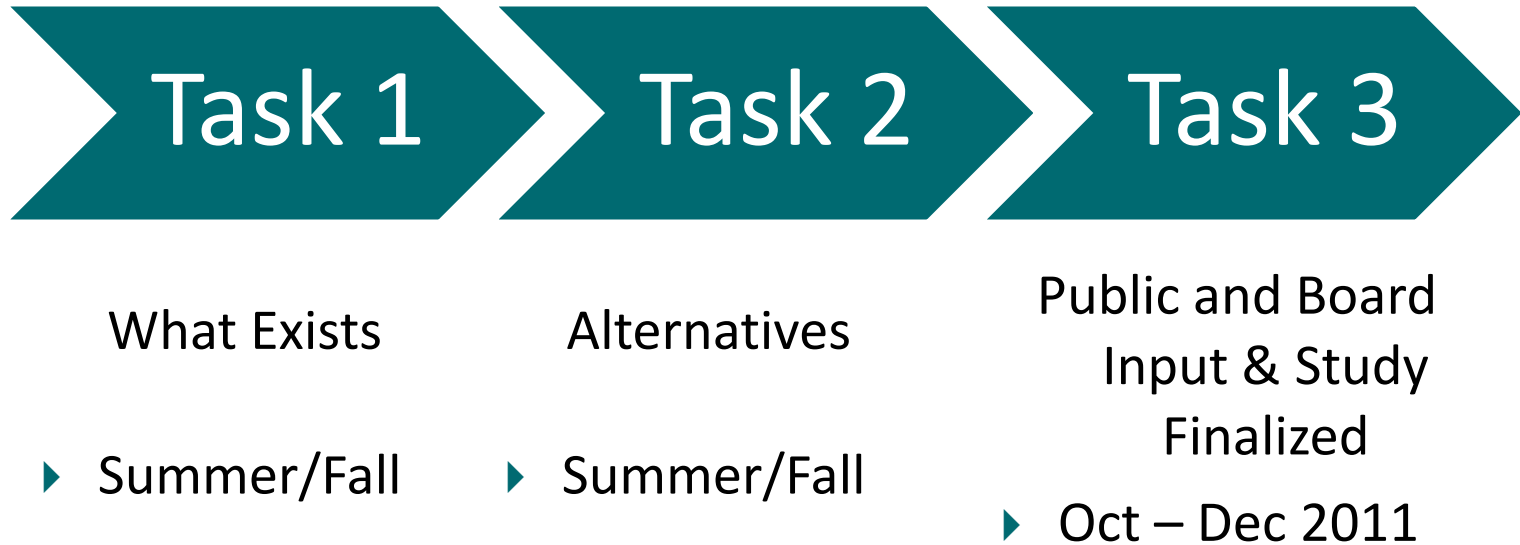
- ▶ Local, state and national scan of innovative high school models
- ▶ Identify constraints and barriers in Ontario County
- ▶ Reconfigure variables to identify creative cost effective options for district to consider

Ongoing: Two-way communication with communities

Task Three – Public Engagement

- ▶ Initial Board Introductions and Overviews
- ▶ Interactive project website: www.cgr.org/OntarioHSstudy
 - ▶ What Exists, Options and Final Reports all posted
 - ▶ Public comments and questions
- ▶ Public Presentations and Forums for Input on Options (expected Fall 2011)
- ▶ Final report (expected December 2011)

Study Timeline Summary



Questions & Initial Feedback

Feel free to contact us:

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