



EASTON, REDDING, AND REGION 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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RE: SB 24, Section 11 – Small District Consolidation

The proposed legislation to consolidate small school districts springs from the belief that economies of scale in larger school districts mean lower costs, especially administrative costs. Why then, or so the logic goes, should the state subsidize the inefficiencies of higher cost small school districts? Perhaps it shouldn't. But something is seriously wrong when the proposed legislation penalizes small districts that long ago combined to share administrative costs. Such is the case with the school districts of Easton, Redding, and Region 9. These three small districts share one superintendent and one central office, thereby freeing up more resources for the classroom. Simply put, E/R/9's existing arrangements already accomplish what the proposed legislation purports to address.

There's a second reason why the proposed legislation as applied to the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 school districts is questionable. Easton and Redding send much more tax revenue to Hartford than Hartford returns in the form of education aid to the school districts of Easton and Redding. How, then, as a matter of equity can the state use its power of the purse to force Easton and Redding to do what these two communities have already done even as Easton and Redding disproportionately contribute to the state's power of the purse?

Whether or not the logic of Section 11 applies outside of Easton and Redding, no legitimate policy interest is served by applying it to Easton and Redding.

Bernard Josefsberg

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