

Dear State Representatives,

I strongly oppose SB738 and SB454, the bill to force regionalization of Connecticut public schools. I am a resident of Norwalk and I am not in favor of school regionalization for the following reasons:

It will not save money. The cost of combining resources, retrofitting schools, and leveling up salaries, and sorting through legal obligations will offset any savings. A 2011 study by the National Education Policy Center found the savings from school consolidation are “vastly overestimated.” Larger school districts end up hiring more administrators, not fewer. UConn found in 2010 that there is no link between efficiency and academic performance.

It will eliminate local control. Stripping local control of schools will irreversibly change the character of our town. I know all my children’s teachers, and my neighbors are on the Board of Education. That’s what makes Connecticut special.

It will harm school quality. Any consideration of mandatory consolidation of schools must start with education quality and there is no proof that larger schools are better than smaller ones. Student and parent engagement declines when schools are expanded. School consolidation can mean longer bus rides for students which leads to lower achievement scores, more absenteeism, and health consequences for students.

Please oppose SB 738 and any other effort to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Melissa Prusak

Melissa Prusak
1 Echo Lane
Norwalk, CT 06851