

To whom it may concern:

As a parent of a Canton Public School student, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. My name is Stefany and my husband and I bought a home in Canton because of the small town feeling and the student to teacher ratio. We wanted to start a family in a town where our child would grow up knowing her entire class and kids in other classes. We moved here and have stayed here because we are tied to our community. Canton Schools already share services and here are a few:

*Sharing a Director of Food Services with both Region 10 and Avon, which also includes the ability to share in the management of food inventory between the districts.

*Utilizing cooperative purchasing agreements for the purchase of fuel, environmental testing services, equipment and textbooks.

*Sharing transportation with other districts for special education students that require out-of-district placements.

*Combining the Board of Education and Town of Canton finance departments into one *Shared Finance Department.

*Pursuing athletic co-op agreements for sports teams

*Sharing the cost of professional development with neighboring districts

If you regionalize the schools our kids will be lost and disengaged in their classes. Teachers will be over worked even more than they already are. The quality of teaching will drastically fall. Kids will be on buses for hours, costing more on transportation. If teachers have to travel, has anyone thought of who would pay for their travel expenses? Has anyone thought about if they were to get into an accident on their way to the other school? Would the teacher be covered on the school's insurance? What about school delays? What would the typical day look like if anyone had to travel on those days? If the plan is to build one large facility where would it be built? Where would that money come from? What would become of the buildings not being used? Kids won't want to compete for sports because the teams will be too large or too many. How would the school spirit be without having any rivalry between the towns close by? Canton softball combined with Harwinton and Burlington last year and I can tell you the girls that played in the past for just Canton were not as into it as they used to be. They want to play for a team that says CANTON, not some made up combined team name. Do you really think the class sizes will be what they are currently? Even at the sizes they are currently, kids with mental health issues are passed by and left out. How do you think this idea of regionalizing all these towns will prevent this from happening on an increased rate? What about the teachers being able to keep up with the work load? They already spend a lot of their personal time grading papers and setting up class assignments. Eventually families will move away and how do you think the values of homes will be then? Did the team that came up with this idea even travel to our town or the towns that we would be combined with? I'm all for saving money but not on my child's back! Our schools are what makes our community and regionalizing schools will not have the positive impact that you think it will have. My name is Stefany Reardon and my family and I live in Canton, CT and we strongly hope you oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.