

About bills 457 and 738

I will be out of town on the first and Hartford is not conveniently located for me. Clearly, where it makes sense, sharing between school districts can create efficiencies. But I doubt the legislators forwarding this proposal have deep knowledge of what goes on already. I live in Redding which shares Region 9 high school with Easton. Together we have one superintendent and one central office. This has evolved by choice, not mandate. I believe there are 15 regional schools already. Easton and Redding combined are well under 40,000 population. I saw one plan that put Ridgefield, Redding, Bethel and Newtown together. Bad idea for two reasons - the distance from Ridgefield to Newtown is considerable and only two of the four towns are drg 1 indicating important differences. Add that Redding would split from Easton undoing decades of work between the two towns.

Connecticut already has cost incentives for regionalization. Keep (or maybe increase) that incentive. Avoid the push, the mandate - if serious, provide the pull, extra monetary savings.

In short, do something that makes sense. Sorry but current proposals make little or no sense - unless they were meant to merely start a conversation.

Stan Rhodes, Redding, Ct. (I also taught for 5 years at Lewis S Mills, Region #10 for 5 years a long time ago!)