

To whom it may concern,

While shared services often make sense, a forced regionalization of schools does not benefit students, teachers, quality of education or the unique composition and requirements of local communities.

Forcing students to take longer bus rides and sit in more crowded classrooms, combined with the increased construction and infrastructure required to construct schools to accommodate increased enrollment is not a cost saving measure nor it is improving the quality of education.

As a public school student in rural Litchfield county (Region 12), I was subjected to a very long commute to school at the high school level but this was offset by small class size and individual attention for students - requiring an even longer commute for these students, especially at an elementary education level is not feasible given how much students are already overscheduled and overstressed.

As a parent to a public high school student in Darien, our choice to move here was made largely for the school size and quality. Even a merger with a similar 'elite' town such as New Canaan, it not going to improve the quality of the schools or quality or cost of education for our daughter. Class size will increase, travel time on rural roads will increase (increasing traffic congestion into whichever town hosts the school), ability to participate in sports and extracurricular activities will be reduced given the sheer volume of expected participants, and college placement will be negatively impacted as colleges limit the number of students who attend from any given school.

A decision for regionalization requires significant analysis, discussion and does not allow for a "one size fits all" approach.

Kind regards,

Kelly Zitzmann  
Darien CT 06820



ReplyForward