

February 28, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

As a parent of public school students, 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, or any attempt to penalize public schools for NOT regionalizing.

In 2010, my husband and I moved our then young family to New Canaan for the school system. The experiences my children have had and the education that they have received over the last 8 years in the New Canaan Public School System have been amazing.

The excellent education and the tight-knit sense of community that is abundant throughout all of the New Canaan Public Schools is what keeps us in Connecticut. We are a family.

Larger school sizes will do nothing but diminish the quality of education for all students. The cohesive relationship between the administration, faculty, staff, students and families is one of the major factors that makes our public school system so wonderful. A larger school size will make that cohesiveness impossible.

I have spoken to many friends and colleagues who were considering "the move out to Connecticut" and the idea of regionalized schools has pushed them to chose to move elsewhere. A stellar education for their children is a parents number 1 priority. Connecticut is a wonderful place to raise a family – but not if the quality of our children's education is put into jeopardy.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Kristin Barnard  
New Canaan, CT