

Dear Committee Members,

Please reconsider adopting SB 457 and SB 738. Below I have included some sources and the research results on district size and achievement. I hope you will not rush to a decision and instead, analyze all the possible effects of such a decision. Often decisions are being made in our society without discussing unintended results, results that cause bigger problems.

I also would suggest you look at some of the grants the State of Connecticut is giving away and tighten up on those areas that are wants but not needs, ie. grants for towns to study and complete rails to trails and others like this. I believe we all would agree such items are nice, but if bills and employees can't be paid, then should the State be buying extras, frails?!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Gladue  
Plainville, CT

Economics of Education Review

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"School District Size and Student Performance"

Donna Driscolla, Dennis Halcoussisa, ShirleySvornya

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S027277570200002X>

"Controlling for characteristics of the student population and other environmental factors, including class and school size, district size appears to hinder educational achievement, having its biggest impact on middle school student performance. The results from California point toward reducing school district size, along with school and class size at the elementary level, as potentially important to educational reform."

The Importance of School District Size

Brian Kennedy and Jessica Tolbert 3/9/2012

SBSCOL 591 – Capstone Course in Public Policy

Professor Wright

<https://polisci.osu.edu/sites/polisci.osu.edu/files/The%20Importance%20of%20School%20District%20Size.pdf>

Executive Summary

Governor Kasich has recently proposed Ohio's 613 school districts into larger, more cost-efficient districts. Consolidation is the process of combining two or more school districts into single district. Proponents of consolidation argue that reducing the number of school districts saves money on administrative overhead. However, a review of prior studies suggests the savings from consolidating small rural districts will likely be an insignificant fraction of state spending on education overall. After reviewing previously conducted studies and our own analysis on district size and student performance, we conclude that increasing district size has a negative effect on student achievement. Increasing district size produces a statistically significant decrease in the percentage of students who pass the math section of Ohio achievement tests. We recommend that policymakers not pursue school district consolidation at this time. Instead, policymakers should focus their attention on alternative savings measures, such as shared-service agreements between districts.

The Rural School and Community Trust

National Office: 1530 Wilson Blvd., Suite 240, Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: (703) 243-1487 Web: <http://www.ruraledu.org> 1

[http://www.ruraledu.org/user\\_uploads/file/schoolsize.pdf](http://www.ruraledu.org/user_uploads/file/schoolsize.pdf)

#### SCHOOL SIZE: RESEARCH BASED CONCLUSIONS

School size is a critical factor in determining educational outcomes. Research links small school size with higher levels of achievement and cost effectiveness. Small size also makes other school improvements more effective. Many urban systems have recently improved education for all students by breaking large schools into smaller units. Small schools have long been more common in rural areas, and when population is sparse, they sometimes need to be even smaller than would be appropriate in more densely populated areas. But the advantages of small schools can be undermined if they are under-funded or forced to organize and operate the way larger schools do. Moreover, the advantages of smallness can be used to justify schools that segregate students by income, race, or social background, denying all students essential educational opportunities, compromising constitutional rights, and diminishing social justice. But when well motivated and properly funded, small schools can provide strong education for rural students. What follows is what researchers have found about school size.

Center for American Progress | Size Matters: A Look at School-District Consolidation

<https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/SchoolDistrictSize.pdf>

States should avoid a one-size-fits-all approach to maximizing school and district size. While our report finds that many districts suffer from lost potential capacity due to their small size, there is no easy solution to this problem, and the best solution for one district may not be the best solution for another. What's clear is that state-led consolidation is neither the only option nor the right solution in many cases.

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_issues/issues108.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_issues/issues108.shtml)

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/school-size/>

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