

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to express my opinion regarding the upcoming debate on consolidation of school districts.

Having read the list of problems that would be incurred should consolidation occur, even those of us who favor consolidation need to pause and consider other options. Has there been a study performed to compare the dollar cost / loss of consolidating vs not doing so? I believe in providing the best education possible without wasting money on unnecessary duplication. Are we stuck with the probate court districts as a template for regionalization? Might the districts be more compact, perhaps between two towns instead of entire probate districts, to diminish the amount of time needed to drive to regional schools? What have other states done with such a sinuous conundrum? At first look, it seems that consolidation on a small basis might work but doing so on a grand scale seems like a non starter.

I favor consolidation at some level, but given the potential problems in the attached link, small seems better.

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