

To Our State Legislators:

I am **in favor of forced regionalization** because too much money is wasted on too many small schools, such as in my own Region 12. The state is emptying out and aging out and our legislators have a duty to face the future rather than run from it.

Larger schools do not equate to poorer performance. Dozens of far larger Connecticut high schools outrank the academic performance of my tiny local high school, Shepaug Valley School. Indeed, the consolidation program based on probate court districts would consolidate Shepaug with school districts that have far better performing high schools.

Parents who want the rural or small town lifestyle are going to have to accept what comes with it everywhere else: longer bus rides to school.

Parents who think they have more input in smaller districts are kidding themselves; state mandates and the unions control our schools and our budgets, not the parents or even the taxpayers.

Parents who don't want their rich districts consolidated with poorer districts need to understand that their children will be far better prepared for life by attending socioeconomically diverse schools.

The more we delay in facing the inevitable, the more money we will pour down the drain in the meantime.

Please be true servants of the people of this state and make the hard choices to stop our state's tragic demise.

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