

Dear Education Committee,

I'm writing with regard to bills sb874, sb457 and sb738 and I am not in favor of forced regionalization. Our town already has a regional high school district, by choice. However, each of the towns in the regional district maintains their own elementary district. People choose to move into these three towns for the schools. It is part of the choice we made when moving here and impacts our property values. Forcing us to split up our already working regionalized middle/high school district and to then combine with other neighborhoods to make a population quota does not take the needs or desires of your residents into account. We did not choose to move into the other neighborhoods we would be combined with, nor did we choose their schools for our children. This change in schooling would negatively impact our child's schooling, our desire to live here, our home value and with that our ability to move, and our general view of how the education system is being managed in Connecticut.

At this point, it would also be an extreme devastation and have negative psychological impact on my child to be forced to leave friends and teachers. The damage this will do to our students is not being considered. No child should be forced into a new educational system during high school. This change would negatively impact friendships, class offerings, relationships with faculty, college recommendations, etc.

These bills offer nothing positive for the residents and students of our town and these bills should not pass.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Shevis

Orange, CT