

Forcing consolidation of smaller school districts into regional schooldistricts is an uninformed proposal. This will not save towns money nor will it improve the education for Connecticut's children.

Both proposed Acts, at their surface, seem like solutions to saving taxpayers' dollars; however, this is simply not true. By designating a single superintendent, special education director, curriculum director, etc., they alone most likely cannot complete all the work. They would need to hire assistant superintendents, assistant directors and/or special education supervisors, curriculum specialists, etc. The same number of central office administrators would most likely be the result.

At this time, towns can decide for themselves how to structure their schools. Many smaller towns choose to have a part-time superintendent or a 1.0 FTE combination superintendent/special education director. At this time, many smaller school districts partner with other school districts for services, professional development opportunities, and educational materials. Let towns decide how to manage their school systems. Do not dictate how to structure school districts.

I have lived through this regionalized set up before both as a taxpayer and an employee at one time. District 8 used to comprise the K-12 populations of Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough. Certain towns felt underrepresented and equity of resources and fairness were always a concern.

Please leave towns in Connecticut with their ability to structure their school system as they deem appropriate for their towns.

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