

My parents moved to Wilton two decades ago with the intent to raise their kids in a town with a small town feel and great schools. They have paid taxes and bought houses to ensure our success in a town with a great community. Now what is being proposed is that my parents, who are putting five children through this education system, to potentially send their children to Norwalk schools, where the education system is not what they have been nurtured to succeed in. I think this social and educational shift would be nothing but detrimental to the students of Wilton and Norwalk. Regionalization would result in school closings, eliminating teaching positions, reducing administration staff drastically as well as increasing the student-to-teacher ratio which is all the opposite of what needs to happen. More time on the bus and less time in the classroom is exactly what we should not be promoting. Consolidation has been known to have an “irreversible damage” on the culture and identity of a town.

For years, Wilton students have augmented the classroom experience with an infrastructure built around tutors and extra help in an effort to “keep up”. Exposing Norwalk students to what has been “normalized” in Wilton could be detrimental to them as they are not accustomed to the infrastructure in place and may not be prepared to adopt it.

What studies have shown in the regionalization of administrative staff is instead of having a superintendent in each town, there is one superintendent and 2 assistant superintendents. Studies have also shown that because of this savings are not as dramatic and leads to a longer time of approval, adding another layer to getting anything done.

The Town has already determined that there is a severe discrepancy in the math curriculum between what they are trying to teach and what they are actually teaching our kids. Our kids are trying to compete with other towns around us and are struggling a bit to keep up. When you have two towns that have not adopted the same curriculum, how can anyone be expected to succeed. Towns that have all learned a different approach to math since kindergarten are destined to fail.

Joseph P Cullen wrote “school leaders in Connecticut and across the country need to re-examine the assumptions of school consolidation and consider the possibility that small may be the new big” in an article discussing the comparisons in academic performance of college bound high school students in regional vs. public high schools in CT. The Wilton School district knows what our schools need. They know what we need. Regionalizing schools would put the students of Wilton's education into the hands of people who are not familiar with our community, standards, and curriculum, and this is unacceptable.