

Hands off our Schools

Submitted by:
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The reason I moved here 6 years ago in 2013 from Stamford was because of the schools. Most of the people I know in Wilton have moved here because of the Wilton Public School System as well.

When we moved, our eldest was in the public school system in Stamford and we could see the quality of the schools and the education is not what we wanted for our kids. We had heard great things about the schools and the community in Wilton so we decided to move. Mostly we liked the idea that the town is focused on the school and everyone goes to the same schools no matter where you live in town, no districting. We had gone through many redistricting issues in Stamford.

There are surrounding towns with better town centers, more amenities and better train services but we **CHOSE** Wilton because of the schools. Forced regionalization is not the answer. This would not only make our schools less of a benefit but it would also affect our house prices. Since moving here, our house has already gone down in value by more than \$100,000. If the school districts combine, our house would lose even more value. We chose to live here to be close enough to New York City for work opportunities but also because of the school system. If we combine our schools with Norwalk, our schools will be devalued, our houses will be devalued and our tax dollars won't go towards the schools that we moved here for. There is also no proof that combining school systems would be cost savings, it would actually cost more for transportation.

I oppose all the bills that force consolidating schools and incent school to do so and the bills that penalize those schools that do not consolidate.

Sincerely,
Sarah McCall