

I have worked as an educator in New York State for almost 15 years as both a teacher and administrator; a state that has districts *far* smaller than those of CT. I work in one of the top districts in New York State, and also the country. I live in a district that is, according to Niche, the best in the state. In New York we have been subject to myriad changes in education, most recently a revised Performance System and contentious switch to tying student performance to teacher ratings. In all the changes to education I have been privy to, the proposed legislation change in CT is by far the worst. To say it is short-sighted is an understatement. GE has fled CT, as have many of its residents (I believe we are in the top 5 states). The proposed legislation is, to me, the nail in the coffin. Pass it, and you will see that exodus propel CT to the number one spot; the one number one spot it does not want the distinction of holding. The top-notch, award winning schools are one of the (few) reasons that individuals stay in a high cost, high tax state (much like it is for NY). Take that away and you will be left residents in need of services and no residents, and thus tax dollars to support those services. Many individuals now have the ability to work from anywhere, my family included. Should the schools become comprised (which this bill will surely do), then we have no choice but to leave the state for an area that is less expensive and simply send our children to prestigious private schools (which we shall have money leftover for given the change in cost of living).