

Feb 27, 2019

Wilton, CT

Respected Legislator/Elected Representative,

As parents in the Wilton Public School district, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Having lived happily in Stamford for 10 years prior, we added significant financial burden and longer commutes to our lives to move to Wilton, for the sole reason of providing better schools for our 3 children.

1. Our schools are locally administered and cater to the unique needs of our community. We believe that the bills erodes the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town. I am concerned about the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrator and community engagement.
2. There is evidence that the proposed bills are already preventing people from coming to CT, or is driving decisions of people to leave CT.
3. Research by the National Education Policy Center concluded that benefits from school district consolidation are “vastly overestimated.” Further, an article in Education Finance and Policy suggested that district consolidation may actually create negative impacts such as higher transportation costs, a “leveling up” of salaries, and more negative attitudes among staff members and parents. The same study suggests that financial benefits may be found only when consolidation of very small districts (fewer than 300 to 1000 students) occurs.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Regards,

Artie Rokkam

Wilton, CT