

Dear Reps. Donovan and Ancel,

I am an architect specializing in school design and I am writing in support of school district consolidation. While I think there are many educational benefits to this initiative, as well as possible cost savings, in this email I would like to point out the advantages of this approach for our school facilities.

Currently each district operates somewhat independently in regards to building projects. There is very little dialogue between schools regarding sharing resources, best practices or standardization. Many supervisory unions do not have Facilities Directors to provide knowledgeable guidance to these efforts. Often it is the business manager, who already has a full set of responsibilities.

Consolidating school districts and requiring/encouraging the Facilities Director position will bring a more professional, systematic approach to our building projects. It will facilitate higher level discussions about such issues as sustainability, for example. This will result in healthier, more productive, more efficient long-term investments for our communities.

Regards,
David Epstein

DAVID EPSTEIN, AIA, LEED AP BD + C
MANAGING PRINCIPAL