

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Draft School District Map

Good Morning,

I am writing as a constituent and parent from Grand Isle to share concerns about the proposed draft district map and its impact on families in southern Grand Isle County.

I am the parent of a fifth grader and a third grader at Grand Isle School, and school choice has been central to our family's planning long before we had children. One of the reasons my family chose to move to Grand Isle was the flexibility it offered, specifically the ability to choose schools that align with work locations, transportation routes, and the long-term educational goals we have for our children.

While I understand the intent is to promote equity, the current draft map does not reflect the geographic realities, transportation patterns, and employment realities that shape daily life for families in our community. Historically, families in South Hero and the Town of Grand Isle have *intentionally* chosen schools in Colchester, Essex, and South Burlington because those schools align with where parents work, where childcare is located, and how families move through their day.

Chittenden County schools are closer and more accessible for many families. Redirecting students away from these established patterns would create longer commutes, increased transportation challenges, and daily disruptions that directly affect work schedules, after-school care, and overall family stability.

Most families in southern Grand Isle County work in Chittenden County. School placements that pull families in the opposite direction create real logistical and economic hardship and disproportionately impact working families who rely on predictable, efficient routines.

I respectfully urge you to revise the draft map so that families in Grand Isle County retain the option to send their children to South Burlington, Colchester, or Essex schools. Preserving this flexibility supports students, respects family decision-making, and strengthens the long-term health of our community.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspectives of families who are directly affected by these decisions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dall

Grand Isle

