

Subject: Grand Isle County Redistricting

Good Morning

I am writing as a constituent and grandparent to share concerns about the proposed draft district map and its impact on families and the community at large in Grand Isle County.

While I understand the intent to promote equity, the current map does not reflect the geographic realities, transportation routes, employment patterns, or most importantly, the best interest of the children in Grand Isle County and the daily lives of families in our community.

For many years, 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 work locations, childcare needs, transportation routes, and extracurricular opportunities. The schools identified on the draft map do not reflect these long-standing, practical choices.

If this needs to happen, Chittenden County schools are closer and more accessible for many families. Redirecting students to Franklin county would create longer commutes, increased transportation challenges, and daily disruptions that affect work schedules, after-school care, and family stability. NONE of this has been taken into consideration. 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 and the community at large.

Believe me, I understand, as a tax payer in Grand Isle County, the burden that taxes place on us, but our young residents should not bear the brunt of this hastily made decision. These children have ONE chance for an education, ONE chance to grow up in a loving, caring community and I feel that this proposal is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of all of our elementary age residents. I'm not sure if any of you have young children or gran children that will be affected by this decision, but I feel that this will have long lasting negative repercussions on the Champlain Island community in many different ways.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices and the children of the families who are directly affected.

Jocelyn Potvin