

Subject: Redistricting Concerns

Dear Representative or Senator,

We are writing as a constituents and parents from the Town of Grand Isle to share concerns about the proposed draft district map and its impact on families in Grand Isle County. The current plan does not make any sense. It would put our child around an hour away from home for school. As well as put him around 45 minutes from our work in Colchester.

We personally chose to build our family home in Grand Isle 5 years ago. This choice was solely made on a small elementary school and the choice to send our children to Colchester for middle and high school. We did a lot of research on the schools which led us to build our home here.

Our older son is attending Colchester middle school currently and is thriving. He has built a new friend base, and we personally love the school and staff. We want to retain this option for him as well as our younger son so he can receive the same quality education.

On another note, we used to live in Franklin County and our reason for leaving there, which was closer to the rest of our family, was because of the poor quality of the education in this area. We also choose Colchester for higher education because this is where we work.

Looking at the rankings of the schools in Franklin County are extremely concerning to us. Colchester is near the top of the list where MVU and BFA are near the bottom. This is unacceptable in our opinion.

We know many families in the area that work in Chittenden County. School placements that pull families in the opposite direction create many logistical and economic hardship and disproportionately impact working families. This move could drive many families to leave the islands and hurt our community in the months when tourist season is down.

We 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. This flexibility supports students' families and the long-term health of our community.

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

Sincerely,  
David Lambert and Melissa Fortin-Lambert  
Residents of the Town of Grand Isle