



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Smithtown School Community,

This message is meant to serve as a follow up to the letter that was sent last Friday regarding the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Regionalization initiative. As conversations continue to occur within our school community on this topic, it is important that we all receive accurate information so that decisions can be made with the best interests of the Smithtown Central School District in mind.

As I stated in the previous letter, I can assure you that our first priority is to offer the best possible education to the students within the Smithtown Central School District. That will not change.

The chart below outlines several of the questions and concerns we have heard regarding Regionalization. The answers provided under the "NYSED Position" column can be found via the NYSED website devoted to this topic (particularly on the FAQ page), the recent The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Regionalization webinar and its accompanying powerpoint presentation, or within the letter drafted by the District Superintendents of the Nassau, Western Suffolk and Eastern Suffolk BOCES. These resources can be accessed via the links provided below the chart.

Questions & Concerns	NYSED Position
Will this plan remove local control or force us to consolidate districts or resources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYSED has no intention of forcing local school district reorganization or creating regional districts operated by BOCES.• No individual school district is required to commit their local resources without their agreement or consent.
Does my school district have to participate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All component districts of a Sole Supervisory District are required to participate in the regional conversations and planning process, including completion of their local reflections in the Strengths & Needs Tool.• Upon completion of the regional plan, school districts need only pursue implementation of activities they have agreed or consented to for their local context in the final plan.
What if my school district does not have an activity listed in the final plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The regional plans will only include activities that individual school districts consent or agree to pursue and implement in their local context. A district cannot be identified against their will as a participant in any particular activities listed in the regional plan. No individual school district is required to commit their local resources without their agreement or consent.
Will we be forced to implement other activities in our region and/or educate out-of-district students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local public school districts are only required to educate students who have established residency or are homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The regional plan may not force a school district to educate out-of-district students without their consent or permission.

There may be other questions and/or concerns regarding this plan and the resources below will allow you to stay informed. To that end, we have also created a page on our website that we will use to keep our community informed. It can be accessed [HERE](#).

Important Resources:

- [NYSED Regionalization Initiative Website](#)
 - The newly created NYSED FAQ Document can be accessed [HERE](#)
 - A NYSED created Infographic can be accessed [HERE](#).
 - Community member questions and concerns can be sent via email to regionalization@nysed.gov
- [Clarification Letter](#) from the District Superintendents of the Nassau, Western Suffolk and Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- [The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Regionalization Webinar](#)
 - The powerpoint that was shared at the webinar can be accessed [HERE](#).

As I shared in last week's letter, our work will focus on identifying ways to benefit our district and we will not commit local resources otherwise. If partnerships with other districts make sense and help the districts involved, they may be considered. Besides the previously cited Smithtown/Hauppauge Swim Team, we have also partnered with local districts to provide rapid access to youth mental health services via the Commack Behavioral Health Center, and benefited from the partnerships that have allowed for our students to participate in the Regional Summer School. These are but a few examples.

Once again, this initiative is in its early stages and we will have a seat at the table to protect the interests of our students as the plan evolves. We will also look to keep the community informed throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
Superintendent