

New York State Education Department (NYSED) Regionalization Plans are a source of concern for the Port Jefferson School District Board of Education as we believe that NYSED's plan has the potential to negatively impact the community. We recognize the need to explore new strategies to ensure equitable access to high-quality education across the state, however, we believe that unintended, negative consequences could be caused by regionalization as a broad policy initiative. In response, the Port Jefferson School District Board of Education has signed on with the Coalition of School Board Members (COSBM) and thirty other Boards of Education to express [our strong opposition](#) to the emergency rule recently implemented by NYSED regarding this issue. Additionally, we support the Nassau- Suffolk School Boards Association [position statement](#) on the topic seeking additional stakeholder feedback to promote a collaborative decision making process.

What is the Regionalization Plan?

Regionalization is a state-mandated approach that would require school districts to discuss consolidating services and resource-sharing with their BOCES component districts, without an option to participate or not. This plan could lead to decisions affecting Port Jefferson without input from those who matter most—our community members.

Our primary concerns include:

- Loss of autonomy of local school districts and their Boards of Education.
- Mandates for accepting and sharing resources, as well as students, from other districts, which could impact our classroom resources.
- Lack of transparency regarding the financial and governance implications.

How You Can Support Our District

We believe it is essential to keep control over our schools within our community to preserve the high standards and quality education that our students deserve. This emergency regulation is currently open for public comment through November 24, and we strongly encourage you to make your voice heard. You can contact the Commissioner of Education and the Governor of New York State directly to share your concerns. Their contact information is provided below, along with additional resources to help you understand this issue:

- [Link to NYSED's website on Regionalization](#)
- [Link to Board of Regents Presentation](#)
- [Link to NYSED Proposed Regulations](#)

Together, we can make a difference for the future of our schools. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Jessica Schmettan
Superintendent of Schools

Port Jefferson School District Board of Education
Ms. Ellen Boehm, President
Ms. Randi DeWitt, Trustee
Ms. Shannon Handley, Trustee
Mr. Michael Weaver, Trustee

Ms. Tracy Zamek, Vice President
Ms. Traci Donnelly, Trustee
Mr. David Keegan, Trustee

Letters of Opposition to the NYSED Proposed Regionalization Emergency Regulation must be sent to:

David Frank - Assistant Commissioner
Email: REGCOMMENTS@nysed.gov

Letters of Opposition can also be sent to:

Dr. Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner
NYS Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
Tel: 518-474-3852
Email: commissioner@nysed.gov

Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224
Tel: 518-474-8390
Email: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

Sample form letters can be found here:
[Regionalization Form Letter](#)