

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13 EXPLANATORY TEXT

The following question will be voted on by the electors of the Towns of Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut at a referendum held on August 27, 2024. This explanatory text was authorized to be prepared by the Regional School District 13 Board of Education and is prepared in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The amendment to the Plan of Regionalization described in Question 1 below shall be approved only upon a majority vote in each of the Towns of Durham and Middlefield in favor of the amendment.

QUESTION 1:

“SHALL THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13 PLAN OF REGIONALIZATION BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE THE REGION 13 BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A THREE-SCHOOL MODEL WITH PRE-K-GRADE 5 AT MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN MIDDLEFIELD, GRADES 6-8 AT STRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL IN DURHAM AND GRADES 9-12 AT COGINCHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN DURHAM AND TO CLOSE FREDERICK F. BREWSTER SCHOOL IN DURHAM AND JOHN LYMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MIDDLEFIELD UPON THE TRANSITION TO THE THREE-SCHOOL MODEL?”

YES

NO

EXPLANATORY TEXT:

Background:

On April 10, 1968, the State Board of Education voted to approve the establishment of Regional School District 13 (the “District”), composed of the towns of Durham and Middlefield, based on a Plan of Regionalization for the District. Pursuant to state law, the electors of the members towns of Durham and Middlefield must approve any amendment to the District’s Plan of Regionalization.

What is the Board of Education Proposing?

- The Board of Education is proposing an amendment to the Plan of Regionalization to authorize the transition of the District to a three-school model. Under the proposed three-school model, students in various grades would attend the following schools:
 - Students in grades prekindergarten through grade 5 would attend Memorial School in Middlefield;
 - Students in grades 6 through 8 would attend Strong Middle School in Durham;
 - and

- Students grades 9 through 12 would attend Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham

What Changes Would be Made to the District's Schools?

- To implement this new three-school model, the following changes to schools would occur:
 - Memorial School would be renovated and expanded into a prekindergarten through grade 5 school.
 - Frederick F. Brewster School in Durham and John Lyman Elementary School in Middlefield would be closed through the process of transitioning to a three-school model.
- During the renovation and construction processes, students will be located in other District school buildings temporarily.

How Would These Projects Be Funded?

- The District intends to seek State funding for the projects described above.
- The District also intends to submit to referendum in the Towns of Durham and Middlefield a resolution to authorize the issuance of the District's notes and bonds to pay for the renovation of Memorial School in Middlefield.