

Petition to Stop the School Merger

Background: In the past few years the Town Regional School District Planning Board and related institutions, at the urging of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have discussed a plan to merge the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and Berkshire Hills Regional School District. In the following days, namely Saturday, October 21st and Monday, October 23rd, residents of the involved 8 towns (Alford, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge) will vote on the aforementioned merger. However, the students of Mount Everett, many of which will be affected by it and have no voice in the upcoming vote, strongly oppose the merger. To the knowledge of these students, this merger will disrupt not only their school's building and culture, but the education and enrichment programs they've worked so hard to build, and are still building. Even within the past year, several clubs have been founded, solar panels are actively being installed, and the unique partnership with Simon's Rock has taken shape, allowing high school students to take college-level classes and gain college credits. Many of these opportunities are very likely to be lost with the merger, and little will be gained in return, except for larger class sizes and a higher student to teacher ratio. Mount Everett gains nothing from the merger, and for that, we protest it.

We, the undersigned, are concerned young citizens who urge our leaders, and most of all the residents who *can* speak for us, to act now to stop the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills school merger.

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