

**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 June 11, 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: On April 10, 1968, the State Board of Education voted to approve the establishment of a regional school district composed of the towns of Durham and Middlefield pursuant to Section 10-45 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The State Board voted to designate the district as Regional School District 13 (the “District”) to be organized under the provisions of the General Statutes dealing with regional school districts. Pursuant to the General Statutes, the electors of the members towns of Durham and Middlefield must approve any plan amendment.

The Board of Education is proposing transitioning to a three-school model. Under the proposed three-school model, 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. To support this configuration, building renovations and expansion of Memorial School are necessary along with the closure of Frederick F. Brewster School in Durham John Lyman Elementary School in Middlefield. During the renovation and construction processes, students will be located in other school buildings.

The District intends to seek State funding for the projects described above and 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 into a prekindergarten through grade 5 school.

The Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-47c of the Connecticut General Statutes, proposes that the Plan of Regionalization for the District be amended to (a) authorize the Board of Education to adopt the 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, (b) implement temporary school grade configurations during construction and/or renovation and (c) to close Frederick F. Brewster School in Durham and John Lyman Elementary School in Middlefield upon the transition to the three-school model.