

HAMILTON COUNTY NEEDS SMALLER SCHOOL DISTRICTS



The Signal Mountain School System Viability Committee (SSVC) study has not been an exercise in separating from Hamilton County. This effort has been a push to create the best educational experience and outcomes for our children. This is not an admonishment of HCDE and the people that work there. HCDE has a very difficult task to be successful as a whole because of its size, diversity of population and differences of family and community involvement within the respective schools.

Often times with size there are advantages. The state has set parameters on the minimum number of students needed to create critical mass. The Signal Mountain Department of Education (SMDE), as proposed, has critical mass – both by state standards and through the determination of the SSVC. Conversely, in certain cases, with too much size there is a point of diminishing returns. HCDE is an example of one of those situations.

Smaller becomes more adaptive, more responsive and more accountable. Data supports that smaller school districts consistently outperform larger school districts¹. Hamilton County would be better served with smaller school districts as opposed to one very large, centralized and bureaucratic school district.

A Signal Mountain school district would still be very much a part of Hamilton County. There would be no changes in the flow of tax dollars that go to the county to support public education. The change is having an additional school district so our community can have a local authority that corresponds to our community’s responsibility in seeing that our children are receiving the best educational opportunities possible. Creating a SMDE will allow the efforts of our community *to be spent enhancing the school experience instead of patching its shortcomings, as it does today.*

¹<http://www.betterbartlettschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/School-study.pdf>

HOW DO WE STACK UP?

- 7** Number of schools in the #1 school district in the state (Greeneville City Schools).
- 3** Number of schools in the proposed Signal Mountain School District.
- 79** Number of schools currently in the Hamilton County School District
- #38** Where TN falls in state educational rankings nationwide.
- #38** HCDE ranking in the state.

SOURCE: NICHE <https://www.niche.com>

SMALLER SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERFORM BETTER

TOP SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN AMERICA			TOP SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF TN.		
#1	Solon City School District - OH	7 – schools 4,720 students	#1	Greeneville City Schools	7 – schools 2,826 students
#2	redyffrin-Easttown School District - PA	8-schools 6,553 students	#2	Kingsport City Schools	13 – schools 7,298 students
#3	Radnor Township School District - PA	5 – schools 3,658 students	#3	Oak Ridge School District	8 – schools 4,436 students
#4	School District of Clayton - MO	6 schools 2,228 students	#4	Williamson County Schools	41 – schools 35,578 students
#5	Dublin City School District - OH	19 – schools 14,999 students	#5	Maryville City Schools	7 – schools 5,131 students
#6	South Texas Independent School Dist. - TX	8 – schools 3,376 students	#6	Johnson City Schools	12 – schools 7,902 students
#7	Eanes Independent School District - TX	12 – schools 7,971 students	#7	Alcoa City Schools	3 – schools 1,943 students
#8	Wellesley Public Schools - MA	9 – schools 5,067 students	#8	Germantown	5 – schools 5,744 students
#9	Indian Hill Exempted Village School District - OH	4 – schools 1,884 students	#9	Rutherford County Schools	47 – schools 41,893 students
#10	Lexington Public Schools - MA	10 – schools 6,785 students	#10	Collierville	8 – schools 7,939students
Proposed Signal Mountain Department of Education			#38	Hamilton County School District	79 – schools 43,797 students
					3 – schools 2,623 students

SOURCE: NICHE <https://www.niche.com/k12/search/best-school-districts/s/tennessee/>