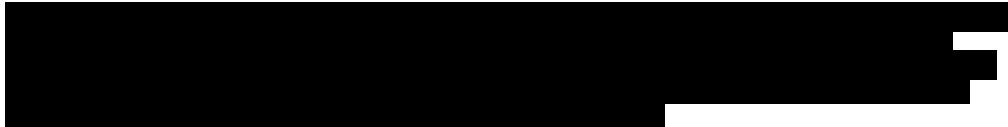


**From:** [Chynna Reyes](#)

**To:**



**Subject:** Nelson County District Facilities Plan Concerns

**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 10:21:46 AM

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.Good morning KBE members & commissioner,

My name is Chynna Reyes. I am a parent of a 5th grader going into middle school next year. I have grave concerns regarding the Nelson County District Facilities Plan.

Firstly, the Nelson County community was not involved at all with this plan. Once we were made aware of this, many community members have voiced their concerns to little or no avail during multiple school board meetings. There's many social media groups that were created specifically because the community as a whole is against this merger.

I've found some reputable sources below that give the negatives and positives of a potential merger between middle and high schools. After reading these, I still feel the same.

The pros DO NOT outweigh the cons. I've cited multiple resources below to show you that this has already been tried multiple times with very little to show for it besides high cost on the taxpayers. These studies show that there's more potential for negative educational effects on the students; within these studies, it shows little to no positive educational effects on the students.

There hasn't been enough studies on the effects school consolidation has on students when it comes to peer pressure, early introduction to sex and drugs, and bullying from older students.

However, I do have a BA in psychology from the University of Kentucky that has provided me with immense knowledge on possible psychological effects this merger could have on my kid and the community's children.

By merging the middle and high schools, the younger students would be exposed to drugs, sex, peer pressure, and more bullying earlier than they already would with just their own peers.

My family moved to Bardstown 6 years ago because we heard how great the school system was here; I wanted my kid to have the best quality education while still being socialized in a public school that valued education. It was great until Wes Bradley was able to start implementing his horrible ideas onto the Nelson County School District.

Now, I've seen more in school fights, exposure to sex/drugs, and extreme bullying than ever before. I don't want to see Nelson County Schools turn into an inner city school. Bardstown is becoming bigger and bigger.

The growth has potential positives when it comes to profits; however, we must address the potential negatives that would directly affect our children such as more drugs, sex, and violence. If the merger were to be approved, it is inevitable that these factors would just intensify.

I was born and raised in a rough inner city, Stockton, CA; I don't want my kid to go through unnecessary struggles and peer pressure like I did because of my environment. He's already having issues with elementary school bullying and merging the schools will just make the adjustment to middle school that much harder. I remember it and couldn't imagine the extra stress and pressure of being around high schoolers.

Also, as stated above, I've seen much more violence within the schools. Recently, my son had to defend himself against another student that was bullying him and pushed him. The principal at this school handled it fine and let his father know of what happened.

However, on social media, I've seen a video of a teenage girl that was ambushed by another teenage girl. Her father let us know that she contacted him and that's how he found out that she was involved in a fight. He also let us know that when his daughter tried to join a morning assembly meeting, she was told that it would be too traumatizing for her to attend.

I'd really appreciate a response on these issues and how Nelson County District plans to change their horrendous responses to these issues.

I'm sure the Kentucky Board of Education has seen a huge decrease in enrollment recently. Would you like this trend to continue? I will surely pull my son out of public school if the merger is approved and either homeschool or send to private school.

However, I do care about my community and know that isn't a realistic option for every family. Kids will be left behind because not every child has a good support system like my son does. Please consider the bigger picture here.

I hope all of you at least take a look at the sources below so you can see this has been tried before with little to no educational benefits for students, only profits for the district.

[A Scalpel, Not a Sledge Hammer: Studies Show Statewide, Forced Consolidation Bad for Students, Budgets | Yankee Institute](#)  
[The Effect of School District Consolidation on Student Achievement: Evidence from Arkansas \(edworkingpapers.com\)](#)  
[New Report Finds Consolidation More Likely to Yield Harm Than Benefit: Rural School & Community Trust \(ruraledu.org\)](#)

Thank you for your time,

Chynna Reyes  
