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**Subject:** Nelson Co Merger  
**Date:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 7:51:55 PM

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Hello Kentucky Board of Education!

I am writing to you as a mother, an educator, and a citizen of Nelson county. We have tried our hardest to let our board know that we do not think the merger facility plan they want for our district will be what is best for our students but they have NOT listened. I am urging you to really think about three things for me when looking at passing this plan for our district.

1. Our children are not getting what they need currently to be excelling in their education and learning skills. How is it going to benefit them to be put within the same building? Our kids need to be taught the basic skills they need not have college skills shoved down their throats. If you do not have a foundational base the college and career ready skills will do you no good because you will not know how to use them. Teach our kids how to read, write and do math then they will be able to accomplish those college and career skills that we want from them because their foundation is made!

2. Would you want your 10 or 11 year old child having to be around that older teenage child who smokes or vapes? They are now influencing them even more to do this because they are in the same building and it's "sooo cool" to hang out with those older kids. You know how it was when you were a kid and being able to hang out with the older ones, but now they will be right there without a doubt. Would you want your little 10 or 11 years old in the same building using the same bathrooms with 17 or 18 year olds? Imagine what happened when you were a kid in the bathroom with same aged peers, what will happen with this age span or kids together? Think about that baby girl who see a nice looking older boy and what happens....no our district board doesn't want to think about all of these things. Let me tell you it will happen and it just breaks my heart that this isn't being looked at!

3. Our kids are already dealing with so much as middle schoolers why would we want to make them have to deal with so much more by putting them with the high schoolers? This will make that change of more anxiety, depression and mental illnesses increase in our children! Go look at the rates now with this. Things are not getting better for our children they are just getting worse and putting them together with not help this issue by any means. They deal with it all on social media so let's just increase it in their schools too? I don't believe this this the correct place for this to occur....schools are supposed to be a safe place for them, a comfort, a haven, a refuge, a place they can go for support not worry or fear!

I know as an educator I can't imagine feeling that this is the right thing to do for this age group of kids. I truly believe that this is the hardest years in a child's life and adding the above stressors to their lives would not be of benefit to them. I do not see how any of the educators in our district can look at this and think this is what is best for our kids!

These are just three key factors to me that stand out as to why this is NOT a good fit for our community, our kids, nor our future of Nelson County Public Schools. Please take these things into consideration when you look at passing this facility plan. We do NOT want this for our schools!

A very concern mother, parent, educator and citizen of Nelson county!

Jenny Allison