

PK-12 Regionalization Final Survey Results– Report Nov xth 2021

Background and Objectives: This survey was designed to help better understand feelings towards possible regionalization of the school districts. Atlantic Highlands Elementary, Highlands Elementary and Henry Hudson Regional are each separate Districts with a combined enrollment of approximately 800 students. Each school has its own Board of Education. Atlantic Highlands has 9 members, Highlands has 7 members and Henry Hudson Regional has 9 members for a total of 25 board members. There is one shared Superintendent of Schools, and two Business Administrators. Regionalization would combine all three schools into one K-12 district with one Board of Education which is the norm in K-12 towns throughout NJ and beyond.

Using the survey results, the goal is to aid the Governing Bodies and Boards of Education of Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Sea Bright understanding the Stakeholders' input from all three towns.

Data Collection: All respondents were a combination of residents and property owners of the three towns. The survey consisted of 12 questions. Logistically, the survey was created for both online and paper survey completion. The survey's duration was an average of 7 minutes, and the completion rate was 72%. The survey was promoted on the Boroughs' and Boards of Education websites. In Highlands, the survey was shared to the following Social Media accounts: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Also, in Highlands, a postcard campaign was sent via Every Door Direct Mail. All channels were used to encourage a good response. Study period was September 21, 2021, through October 31st, 2021.

Demographics & Statistics: According to the 2020 US Census, the populations of the towns are as follows: Atlantic Highlands 4,429, Highlands is 4,621 and Sea Bright is 1449. Tabulations used a **90%** confidence level and accepted a margin of error of **±4**. This means the proportion was tested to assess whether a sample from a population represents the true proportion from the entire population. Using this test, we are **90% confident** that the data reflects the true populations using a margin of error of **±4**.

Action Standard: This research will be used to provide the Borough Councils and the Boards of Education with data that reflects what Stakeholders in each town's thoughts and ideas are regarding Regionalization.

Conclusions and Recommendations: **518** [Atlantic Highlands 93, Highlands 338, Sea Bright 78] respondents answered Q1-Q11 and **200** answered the optional open ended Q12. When looking at the data tables, the yellow highlight with a letter means that response is significantly higher or lower than the column referenced.

The biggest takeaways from this survey are as follows:

- Overall, **73%** of those surveyed want to regionalize the school districts broken down as follows: Atlantic Highlands [**59%**] Highlands [**76%**] and Sea Bright [**72%**].
- The top answer to the benefits to regionalization was Lower taxes [**45%**]. The lowest was I do not feel there is any benefit to regionalization [**7%**]
- The top answer to the barriers to regionalization was I do not feel there is any barrier to regionalization [**52%**]. The lowest answer was Fear of how special needs students would be handled [**6%**]
- The top answer to possible regionalization outside of the original proposed was Atlantic highlands and Highlands [**52**] This is more than twice the percent of the next answer Highlands and Sea Bright [**22%**]
- Of the **154** respondents who have kids PK-12 in schools, **206** children attend Public School and **44** attend Private School. Breakdowns are as follows Total/Public/Private: Atlantic Highlands [**55/80/15**] Highlands [**79/98/23**] and Sea Bright [**20/28/6**].

Many thanks to the Tabulations Team at Gazelle Global Research Services, LLC for providing these tables Pro Bono as a service to the Borough of Highlands.

PK-12 Regionalization Public Survey - Summary of Key Results

Q.1 In which of the following towns do you live or own property?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Atlantic Highlands	# of responses	93	1	0
	% of responses	18	0.3	0
		CD		
Highlands	348	1	348	0
	67.2	1.1	100	0
			BD	
Sea Bright	78	0	0	78
	15.1	0	0	100
				BC
None of these	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.2 Into which of these groups does your age fall:

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Under 18 (17.5)	7	1	3	3
	1.4	1.1	0.9	3.8
				C
18 to 25 (21.5)	7	0	5	2
	1.4	0	1.4	2.6
26 to 35 (30.5)	42	10	31	2
	8.1	10.8	8.9	2.6
		D	D	
36 to 45 (40.5)	109	28	67	14
	21	30.1	19.3	17.9
		CD		
46 to 55 (50.5)	125	31	73	21
	24.1	33.3	21	26.9
		C		
56 to 65 (60.5)	133	15	94	24
	25.7	16.1	27	30.8
			B	B
66 to 75 (70.5)	76	6	60	10
	14.7	6.5	17.2	12.8
			B	
76 + (80.5)	19	2	15	2
	3.7	2.2	4.3	2.6
Mean	52.5	48.5	53.5	52.6
			B	B
Std. Dev.	13.9	12	14.2	14
Std. Err.	0.6	1.2	0.8	1.6
Median	53.5	48.4	55.3	54.6

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.3 Have you heard of the possibility of creating a new Pre-Kindergarten to 12 school district that would include the towns of Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Sea Bright?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Yes	380	83	230	68
	73.4	89.2	66.1	87.2
		C		C
No	138	10	118	10
	26.6	10.8	33.9	12.8
			BD	

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.4 Did you know that the school districts of Highlands, Atlantic Highlands, and Henry Hudson received a grant to conduct a regionalization study that will look into regionalizing their 3 districts as well as with outside districts?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Yes	229	59	125	45
	44.2	63.4	35.9	57.7
		C		C
No	289	34	223	33
	55.8	36.6	64.1	42.3
			BD	

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.5 Have you read or reviewed the Regionalization Study that was released on April 1, 2020?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Yes	120	32	63	25
	23.2	34.4	18.1	32.1
		C		C
No	398	61	285	53
	76.8	65.6	81.9	67.9
			BD	

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.6 Please rank order the following benefits of regionalization, where you feel the most important factor is 1, the second most important is a 2, etc.

Ranked First Summary

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Lower taxes	234	33	153	48
	45.2	35.5	44	61.5
				BC
Consistency of curriculum	71	6	56	9
	13.7	6.5	16.1	11.5
			B	
Broader interaction with other kids	68	17	47	4
	13.1	18.3	13.5	5.1
		D	D	
Reduction of three separate elected Boards of Education to one Board	54	9	43	2
	10.4	9.7	12.4	2.6
		D	D	
Reduce redundancy in administrative staff	52	14	31	7
	10	15.1	8.9	9
		C		
I do not feel there is any benefit to regionalization	36	13	16	8
	6.9	14	4.6	10.3
		C		C

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.7 Please rank order the following barriers of regionalization, where you feel the most important factor is 1, the second most important is a 2, etc.

Ranked First Summary

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
I do not feel there is any barrier to regionalization	269	33	189	47
	51.9	35.5	54.3	60.3
			B	B
Loss of small school feeling	65	20	43	2
	12.5	21.5	12.4	2.6
		CD	D	
Loss of town identity	57	11	33	13
	11	11.8	9.5	16.7
				C
Understanding the school budget in general	53	11	36	6
	10.2	11.8	10.3	7.7
Transportation/busing concerns	37	7	25	5
	7.1	7.5	7.2	6.4
Fear of how special needs students would be handled	33	10	19	5
	6.4	10.8	5.5	6.4
		C		

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.8 If there was an opportunity to regionalize outside of the proposed Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Sea Bright merger, which would you prefer?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Atlantic Highlands and Highlands	268	46	212	10
	51.7	49.5	60.9	12.8
		D	BD	
Atlantic Highlands and Sea Bright	36	10	8	18
	6.9	10.8	2.3	23.1
		C		BC
Highlands and Sea Bright	114	10	73	31
	22	10.8	21	39.7
			B	BC
Some other combination	81	24	40	18
	15.6	25.8	11.5	23.1
		C		C
No answer	19	3	15	1
	3.7	3.2	4.3	1.3

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Town	Q8 Other Response
Atlantic Highlands	We should look at all local possibilities and see what makes sense. Consider Leonardo, portions of Middletown that are along the AH border, and any schools willing to discuss the opportunity to work together.
Atlantic Highlands	This survey is very poorly written.
Highlands	This survey is designed to support a predetermined plan.
Highlands	This is an impossible question to answer. Small schools are not a benefit to all three community ties. They should be pushing mergers.
Atlantic Highlands	TBD
Highlands	Such as??
Sea Bright	Stay with Shore or merge with Rumson with same zip code
Highlands	Sea bright, Highlands, Atlantic Highlands, Monmouth beach
Sea Bright	Sea Bright to remain part of Oceanport
Sea Bright	Sea bright and Rumson
Sea Bright	Sea Bright /Rumson/Fair Haven
Sea Bright	Sea Bright & Rumson
Sea Bright	Rumson-Sea Bright-Fair Haven
Sea Bright	Rumson-fair haven. Good schools and property values would increase significantly
Sea Bright	Rumson Fair Haven
Sea Bright	Rumson and fair Haven

Sea Bright	Rumson /SB/highlands/AH
Sea Bright	Rumson
Sea Bright	Rumson
Sea Bright	Rumson
Highlands	Regionalism with Middletown
Sea Bright	Question didn't have option to select no change to proposed
Highlands	possible inclusion of Sea Bright if they are interested but SRHS is a great school
Atlantic Highlands	Not sure
Highlands	None of the above
Atlantic Highlands	None of the above
Highlands	None and stop CRT or any other name you use to hide it. Parents run the schools
Atlantic Highlands	no other, this is most viable and makes most sense
Highlands	No other combo
Sea Bright	No merger
Atlantic Highlands	No merger
Highlands	No combination
Highlands	Navesink
Highlands	More diversity in community
Highlands	Monmouth Beach, Sea Bright, Highlands; esp if AH isn't interested
Highlands	Middletown, Atlantic Highlands and Highlands
Highlands	Middletown Highlands Atlantic Highlands Sea Bright regionalization
Highlands	Middletown Highlands
Atlantic Highlands	Middletown
Highlands	Middletown
Highlands	Middletown
Atlantic Highlands	Middletown
Highlands	Middletown
Highlands	Middletown
Atlantic Highlands	Middletown
Highlands	Middletown
Atlantic Highlands	Middletown
Atlantic Highlands	Make it worth while. 40 kids from SB does NOT move the needle. Why not regionalize with Shore Regional and all their sending districts. Go big and have changes that will be felt throughout.
Sea Bright	Leave it as is.
Atlantic Highlands	Larger district - adding sea bright does not add enough kids/value/ not worth it
Highlands	just lower the per pupil cost and our taxes
Atlantic Highlands	If the residents would approve regionalization, then go bigger than the 50 students in SB. There is no benefit to that merger to anyone but Sea Bright.
Atlantic Highlands	I would like to see Navesink join in. Adding sea bright won't make a difference in size of school and number of kids. We need to focus on retaining kids. The biggest reason why kids leave our district is opportunity and lack of school spirit
Highlands	I prefer to current grouping
Highlands	I prefer the three, ah and h if I had to choose differently
Highlands	Highlands, Atlantic Highlands! Middletown
Highlands	Highlands, Atlantic, Sea Bright, Monmouth Beach

Atlantic Highlands	Highlands, Atlantic highlands, Sea Bright, & Navesink but keep it only 7 - 12
Highlands	Highlands, AH, SB and Middletown
Highlands	Highlands could be a prek through 3 school, Atlantic Highlands can be a 4th through 8th grade school and Henry Hudson can be 9th through 12th school. This will have a fair mix in all schools as well as create sp Ed classes geared towards gr level by school
Highlands	Don't know
Highlands	Do t prefer
Sea Bright	Current K-8 with Oceanport
Atlantic Highlands	Combine with Middletown
Highlands	Can't we just close the schools - and let people with kids pay to educate them?
Atlantic Highlands	Bayshore
Highlands	Atlantic Highlands, Seabright, Navesink Middletown, Rumson
Highlands	Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, Sea Bright and Monmouth Beach
Atlantic Highlands	Anything but combining with Middletown
Highlands	Any option that will put Highlands on the same path as AH students and save money
Highlands	Any
Atlantic Highlands	all three still too small. need another town
Atlantic Highlands	All 3 districts become part of the Middletown district
Atlantic Highlands	AHES HES HHRS and Navesink Elementary
Highlands	Add students from other communities like Fair Haven, Little Silver, Navesink to increase school enrollment.

Q.9 Do you have children in Pre-k to Grade 12?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Yes	154	55	79	20
	29.7	59.1	22.7	25.6
		CD		
No	364	38	269	58
	70.3	40.9	77.3	74.4
			B	B

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Q.10 What grade level do you have a child that attends school?

	Attends Public or Private School		Number of Children	
	Public	Private	One	Two or more
Base: Total Respondents	154	154	154	154
Pre-Kindergarten	18	15	29	2
	11.7	9.7	18.8	1.3
Kindergarten	12	2	14	0
	7.8	1.3	9.1	0
1st grade	14	1	15	0
	9.1	0.6	9.7	0
2nd grade	8	1	9	0
	5.2	0.6	5.8	0
3rd grade	21	1	21	1
	13.6	0.6	13.6	0.6
4th grade	16	1	16	1
	10.4	0.6	10.4	0.6
5th grade	20	6	26	0
	13	3.9	16.9	0
6th grade	15	2	17	0
	9.7	1.3	11	0
7th grade	16	4	20	0
	10.4	2.6	13	0
8th grade	14	0	14	0
	9.1	0	9.1	0
9th grade	13	3	16	0
	8.4	1.9	10.4	0
10th grade	15	4	19	0
	9.7	2.6	12.3	0
11th grade	7	3	8	2
	4.5	1.9	5.2	1.3
12th grade	17	1	17	0
	11	0.6	11	0

Q.11 Are you in favor of regionalizing of our schools?

	Total	Atlantic Highlands	Highlands	Sea Bright
	A	B	C	D
Base: Total Respondents	518	93	348	78
Yes	376	55	265	56
	72.6	59.1	76.1	71.8
			B	B
No	43	12	20	11
	8.3	12.9	5.7	14.1
		C		C
I need more information before I decide	99	26	63	11
	19.1	28	18.1	14.1
		CD		

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (10% risk level) - B/C/D

Answer Q1	Answer Q11	Answer Q12
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	1. Would the consolidation actually save taxpayer money or just redistribute? 2. Is HHRS big enough to support Sea Bright students? If not, what's the plan? 3. Would Navesink Elementary & Leonardo Elementary consider consolidation? 4. How would climate change fit into this survey- fewer students due to flooding and storm damage?
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	As I mentioned before, we need to focus on retaining kids within our district. If we had add more kids to the school we would be able to provide opportunities that we are missing. Sports is a big factor in this. As a parent of a child that plays a lot of sports— I do not want to have to drive all the way to Keyport to do so. Also it takes a way from school identity and spirit. I am sure it is impossible to merge w Navesink since it's party of Middletown however Middletown could really benefit from it especially after all the problems they have been having with school buildings as well as all the housing departments they are doing to an already crowded school.
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Cart before the horse. No need to make a decision until any negotiations are done and seeing both sides of the coin.
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I am in favor of combining AH & highlands to one board. Would need to decide later on about adding sea bright. Would like to avoid being swallowed up by Middletown which is already a large district. Pre-K for AH & highlands full day would be a great draw
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I am in favor of regionalization with Atlantic Highlands and Highlands. I am not in favor of following the towns' feasibility study that is pro-Sea Bright with no true consideration or benefits for AH or H...it only helps Sea Bright with THEIR tax issues. Regionalize AH and H and invite Sea Bright to send their students on a tuition basis; if any Sped needs for SB, then that can be paid for by SB council and managed by new regional BOE.
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I would like to understand how a special education, arts/STEM & sports programs would be implemented. We have been considering moving to Fair Haven/Rumson like other families because of the lack of special education, arts & sports programs compared to other local public middle/high school and we do NOT want to move!
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I'd be in favor of removing 7&8 from HHRS and having it just be a high school.
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Thank you for giving us a survey to begin sharing our thoughts as a community. I look forward to the workshops that will be coming so that the communities can discuss what works and what doesn't. People should understand that regionalization is not mandated, so it's best to explore the opportunities to improve our children's educational and extracurricular experiences. We should give the idea of regionalization serious consideration. I am disappointed to see people making assumptions and reactively just saying "no" without a full understanding of the data, information, and options we have in creating a workable solution.

Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	This is a very flawed survey. Benefits of regionalization make no sense as you list them ...is the very few students from SB broadening our kids? The administration is already shared and the curriculum is aligned. Have you evaluated the loss in property values in AH with a drop in scores (the perception of a lesser performing school)? Does HES lose their free preschool and their aid for breakfast / lunch for families that so desperately need it? If you regionalize and highlands kids get free preschool, why not AH kids? And what about SB kids? Special Ed costs ...why has that not been disclosed? Why does SB kids prefer AHES when they drive right past HES? I'd like to see the data from Oceanport Schools & Shore Regional with Sea Bright students pulled out as a co-hort. If the ideal number from the state is 3K, isn't the proposed merger a waste of time? We won't even be at 1K. Who's doing and funding ALL of the work? Since you disregard the BOE decision, why assume they'd do the work. Why are the boroughs pursuing this when BOE's were explicitly told they would not pursue if any one entity opposed? 3 entities opposed. Why not come together with BOE's to make best decisions for all. This is being forced / pushed by certain people...and very politically motivated. This is not in best interests of all involved.
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	This is a very poorly and short-sighted survey. I am very disappointed.
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	This is so confusing! We need much more information before we can begin to answer these questions. I look forward to more factual information being distributed. Not via Facebook. thank you
Atlantic Highlands	I need more information before I decide	This survey does not allow me to opt out entirely of responses that do not represent me. For example, I am not interested in ranking "I do not feel there are any benefits to regionalization." Regarding regionalization itself, even though I don't live in Highlands, I hope they are looking into how blending demographics will affect entitlement funding (ESEA/title I and especially the PEA funding for preschool). This was a major oversight in the last feasibility study, and an inconclusive or nonspecific answer is nobody's friend. Please seek conclusive answers to funding and programmatic questions.
Atlantic Highlands	No	Don't do it!
Atlantic Highlands	No	Highlands, Atlantic highlands and sea bright are too small. Not seen enough students. Concentrate on closing HHRS and become sending district for high school. Middletown or RBR
Atlantic Highlands	No	Not sure why it's necessary
Atlantic Highlands	No	There are few, if any, benefits to AH. We've been down this road before and this surveys seems to ignore previous examination of this issue and the findings.
Atlantic Highlands	No	This does not benefit AH so I'm not in favor of it
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	an influx of numbers even this small amount would allow greater opportunity for sports programs and other extracurricular programs that we are too small to have
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Atlantic Highlands school needs reform, especially in how it deals with kids with special needs. Regionalization will allow diversity and broader ideas.

Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Been talking about this since the 70s
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	HH District needs to go. They are corrupt and ineffective in their roles.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	I am in favor of regionalizing for the RIGHT reasons. Don't make our children political pawns for another towns benefit. The current Sea Bright proposal barely gives enough information to make that decision. What will the true Special Ed costs be? Are there out of district students? What about ESL? Will we need to hire additional teachers to help students who don't speak English? What is the co-hort data for just Sea Bright students ...why blend them in with all other students from Oceanport or Shore Regional? Will Highlands lose their free pre-school? What happens with the families who lose free / reduced lunch when we merge? Have you thought about those families who so desperately need it? Why not have our own feasibility study to determine what is best for AH. I'm still wondering why this proposal is being pursued when it was said in front of many people if 1 body (either municipal or BOE) opposes the the regionalization, it will be closed and not pursued. And here we are, nearly 2 years later and still spending money. Be smart and look at all possibilities and make the decision on what is best for all residents and more specifically, for the kids in our town. This is not something that should be taken lightly. Why is this NOT being shared with all residents? How many are you missing by just posting on Facebook??
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	I am not certain of the financial gains that adding Sea bright poses to AH and HG but a true regional of these two is just logical. The streamline of curriculum and students activities, preschool for AH as well, one BOE are just logical. Seabright may greater benefit Seabright then AH or HG. I have lived here my whole life and basically we are one town, there is little "loss of identity" since the kids in each town combine anyway for recreational sports etc. taxes will not be much saved (or they will be temporary) I am not really considering that as a factor, just the educational continuity. With some many new family's in both towns with houses Turing over so rapidly these last few years, I think both towns are due for a change whether it is forced to happen by the state or we control it by making a move that helps out communities, and if SB added and is not a financial burden/complication. Then I am good for that too.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	I do not live in any of the concerned towns. My children attend public school in Middletown. I answered because I own rental property in Atlantic Highlands. With that said if my kids did live here I would still be in favor of regionalization. Most school districts are considerably larger than what is proposed here and still operate effectively. I would not be in favor of any professionals losing their jobs. Positions should be eliminated slowly following retirements.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	I don't believe Sea Bright benefits us. The do not add enough children or money to add value to our schools.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	If we do not do it at this level with Sea Bright, I am fearful the state would eventually insist that Middletown take over. We would then lose identity, quality of education, small town feeling and so much more, including higher taxes
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	N.J. Needs to regionalize a lot more than schools. NJ has the highest number of towns, counties and municipalities in the country and all the teachers, police and municipal employees that go with it. I have lived in nj all my life and made a 6 figure income but I cannot afford to retire here and will be moving soon.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Our municipalities are entirely too small to have so many separate boards, and staff it is wasteful and will not compromise education. Henry Hudson Regional has slipped in its rankings and I think this merger may help with that.

Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Regionalization should only take place if there would be no loss of monies for our students. The last study that was done showed a significant decrease of funds for the combined district over keeping the separate districts.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Schools are to small to justify running in the manner in which they do now, especially the high school. As a graduate apx 10 years ago if HHRS, this is long overdue.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Solidarity as a shore community is a must in today's age
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	The taxes are to high. Atlantic highlands needs to lower their taxes
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	There doesn't appear to be any real benefit to the students. It will only muddy the waters. Our children prefer and enjoy the schools (AHES, Highlands, and HHRS the way they are presently. My wife and I prefer the small school experience.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	This is the most idiotic and useless survey that I have ever seen. What could these results possibly add? It is almost unbelievably stupid.
Atlantic Highlands	Yes	Too few students to justify the taxes
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Didn't like the proposal that Sea Bright kids would be bussed to Atlantic Highlands because "it's better suited for them" per discussions. That seems to immediately lower Highlands school. If regionalization is to occur, it must provide all the same advanced and remedial classes as Atlantic Highlands.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Do not take on Sea Bright unless they are willing to pay their fair share. They complain about paying \$112,000 per student, but it would be much higher if they had to open their own schools. They should not get a tax break, make them pay.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	How regionalization would effect taxes. Costs for bussing.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I am concerned about which town will pay for busing as currently neither Highlands nor Atlantic Highlands provides busing for their respective elementary schools, but walking is definitely not feasible for Sea Bright. I would also like to be sure that Sea Bright doesn't think they are getting "a bargain" by switching school districts. Our current system works fine. They need to show us how they will be an asset to us. I do think it is most beneficial for HHRS out of all of the schools, as, by high school, our kids have been in class with the same kids for years. It would be great to meet kids from another town, and HHRS already provides busing. I also agree that there is a lot of redundancy with three School Boards. No matter if Sea Bright joins us or not, the districts should be merged and there should be ONE Board. 800 students does not require separate districts.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I believe there is no good reason why each school has an independent board of education but I am not sure blending towns is the answer. I worry about the space. If we combine the towns do we need to build? If yes, where? Add teachers? This kills any tax decrease.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I do not feel Sea Bright's inclusion is essential to our regionalization and will not add to cost effectiveness

Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I like many parents have removed our children from the public schools because of masking , indoctrination, sex Ed , ans vaxxime pushing . Do better or will will all remove our kids
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	I like the way it is it's quite fine that way for years
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	If The schools were regionalized, how would the board members be elected? There could be some way of electing board members which would not penalize smaller towns from having a member of the board possibly having a certain amount of members from each town to comprise the board could give each town equal representation.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	It sounds good to bring all three together. I do think it is important to have both elementary schools in Highlands and Atlantic Highlands.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Lower my property taxes!
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Lower our taxes
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Navesink should be included in regionalization, but Elementary keep separated- maybe seabright included with HES and making the curriculum the same from HES, AHES, and navesink elementary
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Need to have more pros and cons to the merger.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Recently moved here so lots is new to me. Seems like grade sizes are tiny so there could be some benefit.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Taxes in Highlands are way too high, not sure where the money goes. I see the budget but don't physically seeing it going where it's suppose to go. If regionalizing our schools and our taxes go down I'm all for it.
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	The ranking questions seemed to assume the advantages and barriers were universally agreed on. In the end the most important thing is to invest in our kids. If this frees up money to make a better education for our kids, then that is great. If it is one more way to NOT invest, then I am hesitant to support it.

Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Transparency of curriculum
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Was unaware until now that regionalist was on the table
Highlands	I need more information before I decide	Which location would remain ?
Highlands	No	At this time I am not in favor of regionalizing our schools The state will be looking To combine with other schools that are larger than Sea Bright
Highlands	No	Do not teach crt critical race theory. DO NOT. I'll take my kids out if school run for board and destroy that crt agenda.
Highlands	No	I do not feel children will benefit from larger schools and classrooms.
Highlands	No	I have a 14 month old son. I want him to go to school locally. I want free Pre K but I also want a large enough group of students to have respectable sports teams, bands and clubs in Middle and High School.
Highlands	No	Leave Us alone please
Highlands	No	Regionalizing the schools will result in lower budgets for the students and staff and schools in general. It will drastically decrease the representation townspeople have in the boards of education for the schools their children are going to in the town they live in. Regionalization could reduce the amount of resources a board deems necessary and leave us unprepared for the imminent growth of our redeveloping town in the decade or two to come. Regionalization is not a good idea. Prepare for the future. Focus on improving our individual school districts by campaigning to get people involved instead of decentralizing our board of education and taking the interests out of our town and putting them in the hands of others.
Highlands	No	Return the schools to the parents get rid of the school boards or pull your child out
Highlands	No	this is a bad idea being promoted by enemies of public schools.
Highlands	Yes	3 boe's is ridiculous. Combining these would require less volunteers. But seats should be equal for each town involved
Highlands	Yes	A good idea
Highlands	Yes	A larger, though not huge, school could provide additional opportunities not currently available to students. Especially for middle school students a larger student population is would allow for healthier socialization.
Highlands	Yes	A strong education system is critical to the economic successes and sustainability of our community.
Highlands	Yes	Adding the few students of Sea Bright is not regionalization and this should not be a way for Sea Bright to save money.
Highlands	Yes	Again, I think it would be beneficial to have Highlands Elementary be a prek through 3rd school, Atlantic Highlands can be a 4th through 8th school and HHRS can be 9th through 12th grades
Highlands	Yes	Anything to lower my taxes

Highlands	Yes	As a former educator, it is a waste of effort having 3 districts for such a tiny school population & a waste of tax payor funds. Get with it already; you have been wasting my money for 22 years!!!
Highlands	Yes	As long as one town doesn't try to strong arm the other towns and it's an equal share based on student population.
Highlands	Yes	As long as the board of education has a balance of people from each town this is a good decision.
Highlands	Yes	Aside from saving money hopefully on taxes and reducing student costs, I think it would be great to have kids mixed in with a wider population , more experiences with a variety of kids. And perhaps an equal curriculum for all providing enrichment on a more consistent basis.
Highlands	Yes	Been in public education for over 25 years. The model you have works, but 1 superintendent with 3 BOE's is a nightmare. It's probably difficult, I give that person a lot of credit
Highlands	Yes	Been too long should have happened years ago
Highlands	Yes	Cost effective for the amount of children actually attending school. SPED children can be identified swiftly and placed in LRE
Highlands	Yes	Currently the cost of our K-12 curriculum is extremely high. Combining schools makes fiduciary sense and can be accomplished without reducing the quality of the education each child receives. Of course it's nice to have a small town school but our town is too small to make this scenario viable. We need to be fiscally responsible.
Highlands	Yes	Each current district would need equal representation in a regionalized system.
Highlands	Yes	Education in NJ is a bloated bureaucratic tick. It caters more to the unions than the children.
Highlands	Yes	For a district of this size (not very large), regionalization will bring efficiencies, standardization, and consistency to administration. It will enable a greater diversity of experience and access for students. One of the greatest fears, as parents without children currently in the district but who will be shortly is whether curriculum standards, and quality of education can be managed well within existing budgets. Consolidation and reorganization almost always produce better outcomes without necessarily expanding taxes - however we fully support paying more for higher quality. In other words, low taxes are not a driver in our decision making. You pay for what you get.
Highlands	Yes	Great idea for more diversity in the schools!
Highlands	Yes	Great idea!
Highlands	Yes	Great idea!
Highlands	Yes	Highlands has never been a district I wanted to send kids to. Regionalizing, adding resources and creating one school district would definitely benefit the children
Highlands	Yes	Highlands is too small to be a stand alone town. Law enforcement should also be regionalized.
Highlands	Yes	Hurry and regionalize!! It has been discussed and argued for over 30 years!
Highlands	Yes	I am 100% in favor of combining the district of Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Henry Hudson regional school. I am less sure about the benefits of incorporating Seabright into the mix. It would definitely benefit Seabright, but what would the benefits be to the Highlands and Atlantic Highlands Elementary schools and, actually more importantly, the Henry Hudson regional school?
Highlands	Yes	I am a principal in Bergen county and it's important to be on the same page with curriculum and the needs of our students

Highlands	Yes	I feel HHR is underused. I have lived in Highlands most of my life, I would have been in the first graduating class of 1963 if I wasn't in RBC. At that time I think there were more students in the high school. At the low rate of 800 students over 3 schools the taxes are outrageous. I'm hoping regionalization will make them more reasonable and also allow special Ed needs to be met as well.
Highlands	Yes	I feel that Highlands would only benefit from regionalization both from a tax standpoint and the chance for our students to have a wider range of both educational, sports, arts, and social opportunities in so many more ways! (As a teacher of 40 years, I feel I have a great deal of knowledge and insight as to these benefits)
Highlands	Yes	I grew up in a regional school system in NJ (West Windsor -Plainsboro). It was a positive experience for me. I think it also makes fiscal sense.
Highlands	Yes	I have be debating paying the tuition to send my child at HES to AHES. This should not be an issue with neighboring town with a supposed identical curriculum. There are many parents facing this debate yearly and combining the schools benefits all.
Highlands	Yes	I have been here 50 years. Children attended local school served on board of ed. Has been talked about for years and will never happen until mandated by state
Highlands	Yes	I have concerns about lost services (free Pre-K, free breakfast) and also the impact of taxes on the merger. A lot depends on the funding formula and how it's calculated to figure out the true value of the merge. Additionally, if we are merging would like to see an opportunity to expand the population of the district in order to offer more classes and programs for the students. Ie More sports options (at the new regional school vs sending kids to another district/team to play), more clubs and more opportunity.
Highlands	Yes	I have thought this would be a good idea for many years.
Highlands	Yes	I served on the Highlands Board of Education many years ago. We started discussing a Regionalization Study back then...but I recall that Atlantic Highlands pulled out of the study. I am very interested in discussing regionalization of our 3 schools and possibly Sea Bright students also.
Highlands	Yes	I think if three towns were in the district, Henry Hudson could have a football team.
Highlands	Yes	I think it's ridiculous that Highlands Elem. & Atlantic Elem. have 2 separate BOEs. Both elementary schools feed into Hudson. In 7th grade, it becomes apparent that the curriculums have not been equitable. It makes much more sense for Sea Bright students to take a bus to Highlands or Atlantic, and especially to Hudson rather than Oceanport or W. Long Branch. The only drawback would be the lack of a football team. A football team would increase interest, school spirit, & blend communities.
Highlands	Yes	I think regionalization makes sense for a Boro as small as highlands. The schools have been too small and too expensive to stand alone and with current growth wld need to scale eventually anyway so why not regionalize now and scale together but keep small region feeling.
Highlands	Yes	I think this conversation has gone on for years and a lot of money and time has been wasted! This should have been accomplished years ago!!!
Highlands	Yes	I think this is a great idea all around
Highlands	Yes	I thought it was a good idea to regionalize years ago! Better all around!
Highlands	Yes	I would favor regionalization in other municipal issues
Highlands	Yes	I would love to see this regionalization take place. It's the best scenario for the towns, the students, and the tax payers.

Highlands	Yes	If the students regionalize for middle school and high school it just seems logical to regionalize from the beginning. It would offer greater continuity for the children, staff, and ultimately when they transition to the next phase of their education
Highlands	Yes	If we do not I think taxpayers should join together in a lawsuit or media news campaign regarding why it costs about \$37,000 per child to educate.
Highlands	Yes	I'm 1,000% for anything that puts the most focus & benefit towards the children of this community - it all starts with education. We moved here in hopes to start a family. We will stay in Highlands as long as we feel the schools are up to par.
Highlands	Yes	In Hunterdon County, the towns of Lambertville, West Amwell and Stockton did similar a few years ago, and parents are very satisfied with the result - as you do your study, you may want to talk with them to see what they did great and what they needed to change.
Highlands	Yes	Increase the marketing information to promote this regional plan.
Highlands	Yes	It would be good to combine all three towns
Highlands	Yes	It's a no brainer. Regionalization of the school districts will ultimately create better school systems
Highlands	Yes	It's a smart use of local resources.
Highlands	Yes	It's long over due.
Highlands	Yes	It's really inefficient and expensive to duplicate School Administration, Police, Fire, Sanitation. The workers in place are "comfortable", but change is necessary.
Highlands	Yes	It's a NO brainer....It would give more of an incentive to MERGE/ADOPT 1 set of curriculum AND of course added tax breaks would help
Highlands	Yes	It's embarrassing that this has taken 15 years to come to fruition
Highlands	Yes	It's time to reduce government. There are too many redundant positions in admin
Highlands	Yes	Just do it.
Highlands	Yes	Just don't regionalize with Keyport
Highlands	Yes	Long overdue
Highlands	Yes	Looking at the future, its the best thing for the town and offers the best opportunities for our youth.
Highlands	Yes	Makes sense as I've heard parents complain how things are handled between their different kids' schools. I don't think Sea Bright should be in our region since we are still such small towns and want to cherish that, and the demographics of Sea Bright greatly differ from ours. Additionally many of Sea Bright kids attend private schools and it seems like a stretch to include them. We could consider that group at a later date if it seemed fair but definitely makes sense to put Highlands and Atlantic Highlands together since we share a Superintendent already.
Highlands	Yes	Makes sense to me. HH regional needs more kids for sports
Highlands	Yes	Maximize resources and lower costs
Highlands	Yes	Monmouth Beach should also be considered for this plan
Highlands	Yes	My biggest fear in regionalizing schools would be the loss of Highlands awesome Pre-K program and breakfast program that benefits all children. Otherwise I think it would be great for all towns!
Highlands	Yes	My child attended highlands elementary for 5 weeks 11years ago from the quality of teaching and administration staff the experience was poor at best we paid tuition to send our child to a different public school
Highlands	Yes	My daughter went to HH—most classes she only had 8 students in, I think combining the school districts would be beneficial to all.

Highlands	Yes	My parents sent me to Catholic school AND paid to educate other people's kids! All of these teachers and support staffs get paid more than I do! When will this cycle end?
Highlands	Yes	No one likes change, to survive and be better we all need to change
Highlands	Yes	No other comments.
Highlands	Yes	Our district is so small, which drives our property taxes up. There would be so much more opportunity for the students if district was larger.
Highlands	Yes	Pooled resources, allocated evenly per pupil seems like it should optimize resources and possibly decrease school taxes
Highlands	Yes	Public pre k please
Highlands	Yes	Regionalization is an opportunity to broaden the horizon for Highlands & Atlantic Highlands students. There will be more educational opportunities, friendships, after school activities, etc.
Highlands	Yes	Regionalization is long overdue. You don't need to be a genius or have small children to understand this. Highlands, Atlantic Highlands, and Sea Bright should be one region.
Highlands	Yes	Regionalization must happen for our schools , police and town services.. the taxes can not continue to double every 12 years!
Highlands	Yes	Schools should be safe, and designed to regionalize
Highlands	Yes	Sea Bright only has a few students and I do not mind them merging with our current schools.
Highlands	Yes	Should have been done years ago
Highlands	Yes	So much wasted taxpayer dollars. There are so many regional school systems and they are successful
Highlands	Yes	Taxes too high. An empty high school. Merge with sea bright.
Highlands	Yes	The question about prioritizing barriers is entirely confusing.
Highlands	Yes	The borough council and Highlands school board should all resign.
Highlands	Yes	The costs associated with too many admin positions keeps our taxes higher than they should be. Regionalization is inevitable. Let's do it right and do it soon. Let's not wait for the State and County to do it THEIR way
Highlands	Yes	The current size of this school system is not economically sustainable.
Highlands	Yes	The most important concern with regionalization is maintaining or expanding the Highlands full day, full week pre-k program. This program is immensely beneficial to families in town and would be to other towns as well. Universal pre-k should be a given in today's world, regardless of income status.
Highlands	Yes	The survey questions, for the most part, seemed to drive how a person would answer the questions. I'd be surprised if you got valid information. But I am strongly FOR regionalization because I think it will be a benefit to our children and the greater good of our towns. We limit our kids experiences and resources because of the size. We should be putting their needs first and not some artificial town pride or a goal of saving a few dollars. The best education is an open, diverse and inclusive one. Merging and creating something stronger is the way to go.
Highlands	Yes	There are many benefits to regionalizing and combining resources.
Highlands	Yes	There are no reasons for not having regionalization. Having separate bureaucracy for each town is ridiculous and is an excess of spending other people's money. My tax pays 66.8% for the schools and I have no children in the school system. That's abusive in itself.

Highlands	Yes	There are not enough students to justify all these school and administration. They either need to regionalize or fold into Middletown or other districts. The cost per student is much higher in Highlands than say Rumson and Rumson has higher proficiency numbers. The school budget accounts for 43% of the taxes in Highlands. The overall budget for Henry Hudson alone is larger than the Highlands annual town budget. That is neither sustainable or realistic.
Highlands	Yes	There are too few students, too much administration, too many administration, and the taxes are too high!
Highlands	Yes	There is no need for 25 board members within 3 schools. Brings the children together that live within 3 miles would benefit them socially
Highlands	Yes	There needs to be more focus on providing more opportunities for kids that are excelling in certain subjects.
Highlands	Yes	This has been a topic of discussion before. Consolidation of services was a step in the right direction, now it's time to bring the children together.
Highlands	Yes	This is a great idea. In fact I think that the same thing applies to the three boroughs: We do not need three boroughs with the same bureaucracy. We should combine into only one governing body. This would reduce redundancy and save taxpayer dollars. Or another option is to all go under Middletown.
Highlands	Yes	This is a great opportunity to bring more diversity into the mix as well as broadening extra curricular activities and sports programs.
Highlands	Yes	This is a long time coming. When we did have a child in the system we were told repeatedly that it was an issue with redistribution of sewer debt in AH. I feel like that was a cop out and am glad it's being taken seriously now. Thank you!
Highlands	Yes	This is long overdue, it is unfair to the kids as they don't have enough kids to put sport team and other opportunities together. My child must attend private school because HHR doesn't offer the sports she plays. It is also not fair to our taxpayers to keep the status quo!
Highlands	Yes	This needs to happen!
Highlands	Yes	This should have been accomplished 30 years ago, the teachers and there union have far to much influence and say as to this issue. This is and should be mandatory for these three towns to merge school districts.
Highlands	Yes	This survey should be shared across all social media platforms and go out with hard mail
Highlands	Yes	Totally in favor; why has info on this proposal not been disseminated? Facebook is a poor choice for informing the voters/citizens.
Highlands	Yes	We must reduce property taxes. Our schools are under utilized.
Highlands	Yes	We need to lower the costs of school taxes. Paying over 30K a student is outrageous. The BOE & redundancies of this home rule attitudes need to change with a High level of education. I know children in HES who graduate and cannot read. Accountability of tax dollars and the level of education needs to change.
Highlands	Yes	We need to retain students at HHRS. Lack of Sports are a huge Reason families leave.
Highlands	Yes	We should aim to have the same level of education as Rumson fair haven district
Highlands	Yes	We should be regionalizing schools and sharing services as much as possible to reduce costs and taxes.
Highlands	Yes	With our high school related property taxes, low student numbers and high facility and staff costs, a regional merger is the best option for our towns.
Sea Bright	I need more information before I decide	Continuity in programs and offerings that would be most beneficial to students are of upmost importance and hopefully will be a concerned in the decision making process

Sea Bright	I need more information before I decide	I am very happy with the Wolf Hill Elementary where my daughter is in 1st grade right now, it seems like an excellent school. I simply don't have enough information about how the Highlands and Atlantic Highlands schools compare academically with the Oceanport school district, and would like more information on this.
Sea Bright	I need more information before I decide	I would like to see the ratings of the schools side by side and a comparison of curriculum that supports special ed
Sea Bright	I need more information before I decide	Stay with shore
Sea Bright	I need more information before I decide	There are hardly any kids in sea bright. Shouldn't really matter if the go over to highlands or oceanport. But since they're in op already... keep them there. Oceanport is an amazing school district. put highlands and Atlantic highlands together.
Sea Bright	I need more information before I decide	Would be interested in options as SB seems locked in as a cash cow to shore regional district. We pay a ludicrous amount per student.
Sea Bright	No	As a parent of current Wolf Hill School students I see no benefit to my children's social, emotional or educational needs by regionalizing with Highlands and Atlantic Highlands. In fact I feel that this proposed change would have a negative impact on them socially, emotionally and educationally. I find the articles that have been shared quoting Mr. Rooney to be ridiculous pieces recounting his experience years ago as a Sea Bright student and feel that his personal experiences years ago should have no bearing on this current decision. The fact that parents of current students have not been contacted for input is ridiculous and I feel that children's needs are not being taken into account at all. While I do acknowledge the tremendous tax benefit of this proposed merger this proposal is not right for my children or my family and I feel like if anyone had bothered asking that you'd receive the same answer from most parents of current students. Our experience in the Oceanport school district and Shore rec sports program with children from Sea Bright, Oceanport, Monmouth Beach and WLB is the polar opposite of what apparently, from reading Mr. Rooney's comments, was once felt. We have never once been made to feel like an outsider, to feel less than, to feel excluded. My children have no ties to the children in Atlantic Highlands or Highlands and would most certainly feel like outsiders should this switch be made. I do hope that some consideration will be taken to fully understand the impact this switch will have on those children fully ingrained in their current educational setting, including students with IEP's like my younger daughter who is receiving an exceptional education at Wolf Hill, and some provision be taken into account providing for them to attend Oceanport schools through 8th grade when the county high school system would kick in providing them the opportunity to attend Shore Regional should they chose to do so.
Sea Bright	No	Has a voucher system been considered for Sea Bright students and families or an Affiliation with Rumson/Fair Haven?
Sea Bright	No	I believe this regionalization will hurt our property values.

Sea Bright	No	Oceanport school system is better than highlands. Atlantic, Henry, and highlands all rank LOWEST ON NJ school list while Wolf Hill ranks number 3. Not a tough choice.
Sea Bright	No	Our daughter is one. We are one of the only full time families in Sea Bright. A main factor in choosing to live here was the Oceanport school system. Should this change we would most likely move out of the town.
Sea Bright	No	This survey is clearly biased to a merger. I have 3 children in the Shore system (oldest graduated 2020) who have and continue to excel at Shore. The fight should be to convert to a k12 district so the taxes for Sea Bright are fair with us only having 1 school system to the other sending districts with 2 and 3 schools. That would lower the Sea Bright school tax burden.
Sea Bright	Yes	Get this done!
Sea Bright	Yes	I am in favor if it reduces our taxes. I have confidence that the educational issues will be addressed.
Sea Bright	Yes	I believe once updated regionalization studies are received, reviewed and shared that the mutual benefits of regionalization will be notable.
Sea Bright	Yes	I do not currently have children but we are planning on starting a family in sea bright. Anything to improve my future child's education is something I'm in favor of.
Sea Bright	Yes	I have reviewed the feasibility study in detail. I believe this is a very positive step forward for all 3 towns. Nothing is perfect but I believe it will provide higher quality education at lower cost helping both students and taxpayers. I hope the Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, Sea Bright alignment proceeds.
Sea Bright	Yes	Just lower taxes
Sea Bright	Yes	My children have graduated already, at this point I would like my taxes reduced, my number one concern, so I can stay and live in the town.
Sea Bright	Yes	Recruit other neighboring communities out of Middletown schools
Sea Bright	Yes	Regionalize!
Sea Bright	Yes	Sea Bright has gotten the short end of the stick for YEARS in being put into the Shore district for high school etc. And much greater taxes!! This just makes so much more sense!!
Sea Bright	Yes	Shortening the Distance to travel to attend school is important
Sea Bright	Yes	Tax rates for Sea Bright continue to escalate. The regional school tax is out of control. Consolidation with the elimination of top heavy administrative staff for each district and adherence to a new school tax formula (to be formulated) would indeed lessen the burden of taxes for residents. The children would still receive excellent education, the bus transportation runs would be shorter and children would not have to spend too much time on the bus. There would be continuity K-12 which is so important in the life of a child. It is a must that we (SB) have a strong representative on the Board of Education. Let us go forward with this regionalization.
Sea Bright	Yes	The benefit of shared expenses would be reflected in lowering taxes for all three municipalities
Sea Bright	Yes	The children would be bussed closer to home and in less time
Sea Bright	Yes	This is an excellent way to have a say in how regionalization is handled in our towns. These three towns share common interests already & this regionalization could only benefit the quality of education of ALL of the children in ALL of the towns. This joining of towns would be a huge savings benefit for the taxpayers as well. Let us make this choice before the state makes it for us.

Sea Bright	Yes	We should only IMPROVE our children's educational. Regionalization that is inferior to the system we have no does not offset tax benefits. We should then discuss w Oceanport to recalculate fairly sea bright contribution.
Sea Bright	Yes	What Sea Bright pays for regional school taxes is disproportionate and insane. It has to stop.
Sea Bright	Yes	While I think any change is a positive from our current situation. A combination with Rumson fair haven would be better for property values. Additionally, please don't make the mistake of making another agreement without a sunset clause or renewal period.