



BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Letter from the BCSD Board of Education regarding Redistricting the Beacon City School District

The Beacon Board of Education thanks the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission for the opportunity to provide comment on the [proposed redistricting of Beacon](#) from its current 104th legislative district.

We oppose this change because it will separate Beacon from nearby communities, with populations that more closely resemble our school district. The demographics of our current legislative district very closely mirror the demographics of our school district, and offer us natural partners in advocating for our students' needs. Most of the school districts in the proposed legislative district are wealthier and less diverse. The demographics we share with the Newburgh and Poughkeepsie school districts make us part of a "community of interest," and it is important to keep this community intact to better serve our student body.

The proposed change will put Beacon at the northernmost point in the new legislative district. We will almost certainly be the lone Title I school district, in an area that becomes increasingly wealthy and less demographically diverse as you travel south. An elected official in this new district may not be connected to the needs of our students if the majority of the school districts in their boundaries do not share our challenges.

Case in point: Dutchess County Community College recently decided to charge tuition to our students taking DCC courses at our high school. While this was a shock to our district and the rest of Dutchess County, further research showed that districts south of Beacon fold this extra cost into their budgets without any trouble.

We hope you will reconsider this proposal and allow the Beacon City School District to remain in its current legislative district, so that we can continue to be part of a cohesive community that effectively advocates for and meets the needs of our students.

The Beacon City School District Board of Education