

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is regarding my concern of the overcrowded classrooms at Springdale School and the negative impact of this issue on not only my daughter, but the entire classroom and the rest of the community.

I am a father of two who attend Stamford Public Schools and have noticed the current issue of overcrowding at Springdale School. I have a son who is currently in high school and attended public elementary and middle school in Stamford where overcrowding was not an issue. I am proud of my son's educational foundation as the student-teacher ratio was low, which allowed his teachers to provide individualized attention to him and his peers. This positive educational experience has had great benefits which I know positively impacted my son's life. However, at this time, due to the overcrowded classrooms, I am concerned about the quality of education my daughter is receiving. Overcrowding has a direct effect on individualized focus for each student. Teachers are to evaluate students' learning, check for weaknesses and strengths, and ideally prescribe the proper regimen to achieve optimal educational health. However, it typically does not work like that in the overcrowded classroom. Teachers are not able to spend the same amount of time with each student. If a student is struggling, there is not enough time to help them because there are too many other students. Also, due to a large classroom size, a teacher may not notice a student struggling or may not have the time to give them help they need.

It is a fact that when there are more people in a classroom, there are more people to deal with which in turn creates more distractions, more levels of intelligence, more everything. These issues can lead to a slower pace, or too fast of a pace for some which will affect the learning process.

Overcrowded classrooms also have a non-avoidable noise issue. With all of the students, the noise level, naturally, increases. With louder classrooms, it becomes harder for students to concentrate and harder for teachers to teach. When teachers have to fight over noise to teach, much of the lesson is lost because of how much time is wasted.

Every child has the right to the attention and support they need which is difficult to attain under all circumstances. Once the class size passes a certain point, the teachers are bound to fail because the demands on their time cannot be met. If the teachers fail, then the children fail, which has a direct effect on the child, family and community.

I am requesting the Stamford Board of Education address this issue and ensure classroom sizes are not overcrowded to ensure each child is able to receive a quality education and a positive educational experience which will prepare them for their future. Myself, and I am sure the rest of the parents, simply want my child to get what all children deserve – a good education and a shot at success.

Regards,

Mike Vargas