

## Reasons Why You Should Vote Yes For School Unity

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1. **We are one county.** Schoolchildren in Memphis deserve an equal education opportunity to schoolchildren in the suburbs. We should have a system **where the dollars follow the kids depending on need**, regardless of which side of the city-county line they're on.
2. This is the best chance we have to **prevent SCS from getting special school district status**, which would (a) permanently wall off the suburban kids from Memphis kids; (b) permanently prevent us from ever reconsidering school consolidation; (c) potentially shrink the tax base for MCS, so that **Memphis taxpayers would have to pay higher taxes-the rate would rise over 40 cents**; (d) permanently **choke off our ability to grow education** funding in the future for MCS.
3. This would **end the double taxation of Memphians**, who pay for schools through county taxes and then again through City taxes. The City would no longer have to pay for MCS. That's **\$78 million per year that Memphis could save**.
4. This would **spread the funding among the whole county**. We've been saying for years we like "**single source funding**" of schools. This would accomplish it.
5. This would lead to **more efficient spending of our education dollars**. We'd (a) **eliminate duplicate levels of higher-up bureaucracy**, and (b) get rid of the ADA formula (the state rule which says that every time the county spends a dollar on county schools, it has to spend 2.5 dollars more on city schools), which, while good sometimes and needed as long as we have separate school systems, also causes a lot of **wasteful spending**.
6. This is a **historic opportunity for remaking our school system**. After Hamilton County unified county and city school systems under analogous circumstances in the late 1990s, neutral observers praised the unified system's ability to focus resources on the neediest of schools and children.
7. Even if the day-to-day experiences of schoolchildren didn't change all that much, the fact that they would grow up in a unified school system would help to **get rid of this "us versus them" mentality** that has held us back for so long.