

education

Parents, concerned citizens and business leaders, government officials and elected representatives need to know the facts - and how to address these critical issues.

The Issue

A good education is critical in helping children become productive, self reliant adults. Overcrowded classrooms, high teacher turnover, and unsafe school environments contribute to poor student achievement.

Bridgeport schools face severe challenges but lack the necessary funding support and resources to address them. Over the last four years, our schools have had to make \$22-24 million in budget cuts. The Mayor's proposed budget leaves our schools with a deficit of \$5.5 million. This deficit will force the closing of schools and layoffs of teachers, principals and other school staff. The City's plan to eliminate funding for school nurses and School-Based Health Centers will drive up the deficit by another

Recommendations

Rather than increase funding for other city departments with the hiring of 51 new staff at City Hall and City Hall Annex, demonstrate the City's commitment to education by finding additional funding for education to fill this deficit. The State is watching what the City of Bridgeport will do. Show them that we can do the right thing.

Provide the Board of Education with the \$2.1 million in city overcharges for school employee health benefits.

Restore funding to the School-Based Health Centers and school nurses because students need these critical health services in order to improve academic performance.



79%

of grades K-3, 46% of grades 4-8 and 25% of high school classrooms are overcrowded.

17,065

students attend the 24 Bridgeport schools that failed to make adequate yearly progress on either the CMT (Connecticut Mastery Test) or CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test).

1 out of 5

high school freshmen drops out of school before graduating.

1 out of 3

children entering kindergarten have no preschool experience.