

Bill Nos. SB945, SB946, SB947, SB948, SB949 & SB886

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jennifer Babb and I am an elementary art teacher in Bridgeport, CT. This is my 16th year teaching in Bridgeport. I am writing today to ask that you adjust the state budget so that my students in Bridgeport do not lose out on any money that we so desperately need.

Every year that I have taught in Bridgeport we seem to lose something, but we are still required to do the same job. Kindergartens no longer have paras. School guidance counselors, and other support staff are getting whittled away. My budget to purchase art supplies is \$2 a child for the entire school year. Can you imagine that? I have become extremely good at Donors Choose, never turning down any donation, looking for bargains and just doing the best I can with what I have. I do not have a kiln or even a sink in my room. But I am grateful to have a room, I know that other art teachers are on a cart. We must be careful on how much paper we use in the copier and the printer. (The printer I use is a printer is across the hall in the special ed room since mine was taken away years ago). I do not have a smart board. I am lucky my school was given Apple TVs, a projector, and the teachers laptops. If I didn't have that I would have no technology in my room other than my desktop.

I could keep doing on with this list. And fill pages with all the things that have been cut, taken away, or just never replaced. But I do want to tell you about what we do have. We have amazing students in my school. I have 3rd grades who created thier own comic book characters. I have a 6th grader who loves to draw and will fill up any paper she has with her imaginative sketches. I have students who groan when it's time to clean up (we have art for 30 min) because they do not want to leave. They will keep working until the last second. I have students who get so excited to come to art. I have students who are sweet and caring and laugh with me. I have students who call my name to show me their work and want to tell me all about it.

My students deserve to have so much more. They deserve to have the same resources and supplies that the students do in the surrounding towns. Please don't take more from them.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Babb