

Governor Lamont:

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

Your educational budget cuts will have a detrimental impact on the Bridgeport Public Schools. Bridgeport has more schools in need of building repair than schools that are not in need. Bridgeport's students and educational staff must work in buildings that still have asbestos, do not have proper heating, do not have proper ventilation, have water leaks, and are in desperate need of more facility updates than those mentioned. Bridgeport has schools that are 50 to over 100 years old.

Bridgeport's staff is at the bare minimum with classes combined or split due to the lack of substitutes. Bridgeport's students must be in classes of twenty-nine students with only one teacher and no additional staff to assist students who are not at grade level.

Governor, when you need Bridgeport teachers to vote, you proudly reference the time you spent at the old Harding High School. You need to remember the conditions at that old location. You need to remember how difficult it was for the staff to provide for the diverse educational needs of the students. Your time at that Bridgeport School was several years ago and budget cuts have created an even greater detriment for Bridgeport teachers to provide and meet the needs of Bridgeport's diverse learning population of students.

I have worked in Bridgeport for thirteen years. During that time, I have seen important educational support services lost due to budget cuts. Bridgeport needs more funds for reading and math

SRBI interventions to help our students to be successful and competitive in the twenty-first century.

Veteran Bridgeport Teacher
Cynthia Remy