



Dr. Levy-David, the Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools, announces The ***Rising Together for Better Schools*** initiative. There is an immediate and desperate need to close several schools within Bridgeport Public Schools that are a hindrance to student learning and are, in many cases, not safe for students or staff.

It is irresponsible to continue to operate schools that are low-performing, that are inefficient, and a misuse of taxpayers' resources. The district is closing six of its schools that are harming students and are draining our hard-working taxpayers' money. The campuses that are being recommended for closing include Hall School, Bridgeport Learning Center, Edison School, and Bryant School, Dunbar School, and Cross School.

Three fundamental priorities underscore Dr. Levy-David's vision for Bridgeport Public Schools: ensuring student safety, delivering high-quality instruction, and upholding fiscal responsibility. These unsafe building conditions are adversely affecting all three elements of Dr. Levy-David's vision. She has discovered alarming statistics revealing academic struggles within the district.

Data leading to the decision:

The comprehensive evaluation process utilized in deciding to close the buildings considered multiple factors, including facility conditions, operational costs, and student performance data.

Dr. Levy-David and the leadership of Bridgeport Public Schools collaborated with state and local officials, the Department of Education, and the Board of Education, underscoring the thoroughness of the decision-making process.

Most of these buildings are not safe for students or staff. The district is the fourth lowest-performing school district in the state. Literacy scores indicate that the district is in the 30th percentile.

At Bridgeport Learning Center, Edison School, Hall School, Dunbar School, and Cross School, the percentage of students who meet the state's accountability standards in English Language Arts range from 7.55% to 15.97%. The scores in Math are even more dismal. The percentage of students meeting or exceeding math standards at the six campuses ranges from only 3.79 percent to 7.14 percent.

SBAC SMARTER BALANCED ACHIEVEMENT		
School	2022-23 ELA Percentage Level 3 or 4 (Met or Exceeded)	2022-23 Math Percentage Level 3 or 4 (Met or Exceeded)
Bridgeport Learning Center	10.34%	6.90%
Bryant School	15.97%	6.94%
Edison School	10.28%	5.61%
Dunbar School	12.11%	5.43%
Cross School	7.55%	3.79%
Hall School	10.71%	7.14%



Media Brief
March 6, 2024

Moving Forward:

It is time for Bridgeport Public Schools to right the wrong and shift the focus on safety and security, on high-quality education, and on responsible fiscal stewardship. Now is an imperative time for change while minimizing disruption for students and additionally enhancing educational offerings.

As the largest district in Connecticut, BPS should have state-of-the-art facilities to ensure the vision of student success is achieved. The district must design modern facilities, which will take time and focus. It won't happen overnight, but it must start now. BPS students and staff need BPS to make uncomfortable decisions now so their futures are filled with opportunity, innovation, and technology. The plan includes opportunities for expanded adult learning options, and right-sizing staffing is a key component of the district's strategic vision.

The district intends to begin supporting special education students with appropriate programming by opening a specialized education facility. BPS additionally intends to stop sending students out of the district by hosting their own expulsion center to ensure our students are getting the support they need from the district. The process allows the district to right-size for staffing, which is key for student success.

The closure process announced Wednesday will occur over a 36-month period.

Like many of the other districts around us, we will have to reduce our staff and we will do so strategically. We will do most of this through attrition, by not refilling vacant positions and from retirements. **We will not be laying off staff this school year.** We will honor our contract.

For further inquiries, media are directed to contact Timothy Grasty at risingtogether@bridgeportedu.net.