

## BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### 2020-21: FINANCE TALKING POINTS - SUMMARY

1-14-20

- **Bridgeport is in the lowest level on the economic scale among all school districts in Connecticut.**
- **Bridgeport has the second highest enrollment** among Connecticut school districts.
  - Enrollment = 20,130 as of 10-1-2019.
- **Bridgeport has high enrollment of the neediest students – *in special education and English language learners (ELL).***
  - As of **10-1-2019**, special education students constituted **17.49%** of the enrollment; and English language learners, **20.02%**.

2019-20 Data	Total Enrollment	Special Education %	English Language Learners (ELL) %
<b>10-1-19</b>	<b>20,130</b>	<b>17.49%</b>	<b>20.02%</b>
<b>1-2-20</b>	<b>20,177</b>	<b>18.07%</b>	<b>20.52%</b>

- **Bridgeport, as one of the nation’s highest poverty districts, serves breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications, under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program.**
- **Bridgeport is grossly underfunded, in comparison to its peer districts.**
  - Compare **Bridgeport’s NCEP of \$14,697** (as of October 2019) .....

NCEP: October 2019	
Bridgeport	\$14,697
Hartford	\$19,838
Stamford	\$19,271
New Haven	\$18,064
Waterbury	\$16,048

- Bridgeport is underfunded by \$20.1M for each \$1,000 in NCEP it does not receive. If Bridgeport were equitably funded with Hartford, as an example, Bridgeport’s budget would rise by \$103.5M!
- **Of 166 CT school districts, ranked by NCEP, from highest to lowest, Bridgeport is #157.**

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NCEP = Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil

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- In Bridgeport, the City’s percentage contribution to the total education budget is only 26.5%, while the State contributes the balance, 73.5%.
- Growth in the total operating budget: 5-year period
  - Average Growth/Year = + 1.00%

% Growth	Total Budget	2.45%	-0.45%	0.06%	1.36%	1.59%
Year		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20

	TOTAL	CITY	STATE
	% Growth	% Growth	% Growth
	w. Alliance	w. Alliance	w. Alliance
Year	Total Budget	CITY	STATE
2015-16	2.45%	1.05%	1.40%
2016-17	-0.45%	0.02%	-0.47%
2017-18	0.06%	0.16%	-0.10%
2018-19	1.36%	0.70%	0.65%
2019-20	1.59%	0.52%	1.06%
Avg/Year	1.00%	0.49%	0.51%

*Average budget growth of 1.00%/year is insufficient to keep pace with escalating costs, after taking into account the district’s ongoing focused efforts at cost control and management.*

- Bridgeport has endured sequential budget gaps, over the course of four years from 2016-17 to 2019-20, amounting in the aggregate to **over \$44M!** As a result, substantial reductions in positions, programs and services have occurred.

Year	Budget Gap
FY17	- \$16.0M
FY18	- \$11.25M
FY19	- \$10.8M
FY20	- \$6.063M
TOTAL	- \$44.11M