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Dear Bridgeport Public School Families:

This school year is coming to a close very soon. My Academic Team has been working very hard to improve student achievement in our schools for all of the students. New textbooks and instructional resources have been purchased and are being used daily in our schools. We have also provided additional academic support, before, during and after school for students. While we know that students are demonstrating progress there are still students who are in need of more support in order to be successful in their next grade in September.

After the regular school year ends in late June, there will be an extensive educational program in July for many of our students from Kindergarten through high school. In accordance with District policy, many of you have been notified by your child's school that your child's promotion to the next grade may be in doubt. This notification may have been a letter, a phone call, at Report Card Conferences or a meeting at your child's school.

There will be mandatory Summer School for students in **Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2** for students who are scoring far below grade level on the Developmental Reading Assessment. For students in **Grades 3, 6, 8 and 9** who have not made sufficient academic progress and are not meeting District Promotional Standards **MUST ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL**. Each of these grades represents a milestone by which students should have accomplished essential skills before moving on to the next grade and achieving success. Students who must attend Summer School will not be promoted until they successfully complete the Summer School Program. We are providing this opportunity for students during the summer so that they can improve their academic skills and knowledge and be promoted to the next grade in September.

We do understand that there may be students who will not be able to attend the Summer School Program due to prior commitments. If there is a valid reason why a student who must attend Summer School cannot participate, we request that a meeting be held with the student's family and the Principal of the student's school. During this meeting with the Principal, a plan for improvement will be developed to help the child continue with learning and academic activities over the summer. If this plan is not developed and completed, the student will be retained in the current grade.

I strongly believe that we must take these steps in order to ensure that all of our students are achieving at high levels and can be successful in their school careers. I am asking for your cooperation in this effort.

If you have any questions about whether your child will be required to attend Summer School, please contact your child's school.

Very truly yours,

Paul G. Vallas
Superintendent