

District

Champions for Children



Creating A Culturally Responsive High Performing Learning Environment
Where Students Thrive Academically, Social-Emotionally, And Civically.

<p>ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Teaching and Learning Department started the school year off strong with Professional Development for all stakeholders. Administrators were provided with updated information from all content areas and were given resources to allow them to turnkey these updates to their staff the first week of school. During the month of July, the Lone Pine Foundation provided a grant to cover the registration and lodging accommodations for 73 teachers and administrators to participate in Greg Tang’s Summer Institute in Boston, MA. Our Early Childhood Department, now under the leadership of Dr. Melissa Jenkins, has relocated to Room 302 in City Hall and they are communicating daily with schools and families in regard to open slots in Preschool. Presently over 650 slots are filled with eager to learn, optimistic children with only 14 open slots unfilled. The district assessment file, a resource to assist teachers in differentiation, was rolled out to administrators and individual student data sheets have been added to the plan to help facilitate student and parent conversation. The new data sheet, completely filled in from the file prior to being shared with teachers, will be used for SRBI, PPT and Data Team purposes as well as for parent meetings and student goal setting. The feedback from teachers has been extremely positive. The culminating event for Teaching and Learning was our 3rd Annual English Learner Summit which was held at Fairchild Wheeler on September 13th and over 160 Bridgeport Public School staff participated. The Summit included a student panel which consisted of 3 ESL students from Bassick High School. Workshops were presented by our own ESL & Bilingual teachers. We are also working toward the goal of expanding our UCONN ECE participation as well as Advanced Placement. Bridgeport saw a 161 percent growth in AP test takers — 239 to 623 — and a 96 percent increase in exams that scored 3 or better — 263 in 2018. Last year, Bridgeport offered 20 AP courses, compared to 12 in 2015. The department is looking forward to the new school year and is actively planning school visits and conversations with administrators and teachers for the benefit of all.
<p>FACILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: AC repaired in cafeteria Hall: AC window unit installed for teacher per HR request Blackham: AC window unit installed (same as above) HVAC: Facilities staff are currently inspecting, adjusting and making necessary repairs as heating season quickly approaches. Landscape: Crew still catching up on some schools that were not complete due to staff shortage.
<p>FINANCE</p>	<p><i>Continuing....</i> The 2018-19 budget is subject to several significant risk factors at this early point in the school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In regard to the CT Partnership plan and the resultant health insurance savings built into the FY19 budget gap plan, some, but not all, non-certified unions will transition to the CT Partnership effective October 1st. Notably, of the largest unions representing non-certified staff, AFSCME and NAGE, AFSCME will transition on 11-1-18. An effective date for NAGE has not yet been announced, but 1-1-19 is the expected date. Continuation of the current health plan in the September - December period will reduce the anticipated savings in the budget gap plan. The reduction in savings is projected in the range of \$275 - \$350,000. As part of Deficit Prevention Mode, which continues in force, we will seek to capture all accrued funds, in order to build reserves to help offset this projected shortfall and prevent a deficit condition. The CSDE has not yet released the 2018-19 appropriations for the major federal grants that impact the district's financial condition: Title I, Title IIA, Title III, Title IVA, IDEA. The ultimate appropriations could be stable, higher or lower, in comparison to FY18. Decreased allocations

	<p>could result in a need for further reductions in positions in 2018-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017-18, the upward trend in special education enrollment (17.36%) and mandated service needs was a major concern, in view of the heightened pressure on extremely constrained fiscal resources and reduced fiscal capacity to provide services for general education students. In 2018-19, new special education classes have been opened and while the redeployment of existing resources is partially supporting these new classes, the level of commitment of resources to special education is higher due to the supplemental expense for related services. The rise in out of district expenditures is another area requiring oversight and exploration of potential measures to reduce the overall expense. • A balanced budget will be dependent upon attainment of the projections that comprise the Budget Gap Plan, including the savings to be derived from Deficit Prevention Mode and the designated elimination of positions. Following standard operational practice, we will continue to monitor carefully budgetary expenditures and, if any negative trends emerge, alert the Superintendent of the causative factors and recommended timely interventions.
HUMAN RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE FINAL SESSION FOR UNCONSCIOUS BIAS IN HIRING, CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INITIATIVE WILL BE HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2018. • TITLE IX TRAINING IS BEING SCHEDULED FOR NEW SCHOOL BASED TITLE IX COORDINATORS, TENTATIVE DATE OF NOVEMBER 2018.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
NUTRITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bridgeport Food & Nutrition Department recently conducted twelve hours of training to all Nutrition Center employees prior to the start of school year 2018-2019. Topics included Civil Rights, <i>And Justice for All</i>, Offer vs Served, safety in the kitchen and accountability. Included in the training were four hours of food safety handling as well as a two hour test that leads to management certification.
SPECIAL EDUCATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Office of Specialized Instruction has begun deployment of Specialized Instructional Coaches throughout the district. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three district specialized instructional coaches are providing support to all special education teachers within Bridgeport Public Schools including resource, medically fragile, functional, ASD, SOAR/AIM classrooms. In the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEP Development, Implementation, Compliance • PPT participation as needed • Individualized support for new and non-tenured teachers • Consultation with building administration and school personnel • Case managers for students placed in out-of-district special education settings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating PPT's • Completing required paperwork (IEP's, meeting invitations etc.) • Facilitated a Specialized Instructional Professional Development for all special education teachers during the first week of school focusing on policy/procedures, IEP Direct, and Connecticut State Department of Education website. • Following the summer training, Boys Town District Trainers will be instructing a second Boys Town 5 Day Training being held in fall, 2018 to support teachers within self-contained AIM/SOAR Classrooms. • Ongoing consultation as a team to ensure proper placement for students in/out of district as well as bringing students back into district to promote least restrictive environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, Instructional Coaches have participated in parent meetings and PPTs which have resulted in the following positive outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TWO students are returning to BPS from out of district placements. ▪ One student has been redirected from a referral to an out of district placement back into a BPS ASD classroom, and the parent is pleased with the recommended placement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One student’s parent had previously planned to go to mediation, and with the support of the Office of Specialized instruction, and the hands-on involvement of the instructional coaches, the student will remain in BPS. • Providing parent engagement and communication in their native language in regards to their child’s overall special education services and program. <p>2. The Interim Director of Specialized Instruction has begun networking with Principals of Bridgeport and other local school districts, as well as Out of District placements to begin evaluating appropriateness of placements. The Interim Director has met with, or has Scheduled meetings with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goodwill Industries Disability Resource Network The University School CES ACES Woodhouse Academy Six-to-Six High Roads Foundation School Hope Academy Milestones Lorraine D Foster Stamford Academy Options <p>3. The Interim Director is also directly supporting the Opportunities for Self-Discovery Transition Program to ensure proper delivery of service, including the interviewing and hiring of 3 new Job Coaches in the coming weeks, facilitation of Nutrition Center lunch delivery, and PPT support as needed.</p>
SVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School Volunteer Office held a welcome back breakfast on September 12th at the Aquaculture School for volunteers in the school-based mentoring program. They were joined by the guidance counselors, who are their liaisons with the mentees. The breakfast provides an opportunity to determine the best schedule for their hour long meetings with their mentees each week. Superintendent Dr. Aresta Johnson thanked the volunteers for their continuing involvement and gave highlights of successes in the district. Carrie Ramanaukas, the District SEL Coordinator, gave an overview of the Impact of Trauma on Children and Social Emotional Health Initiatives in the schools. The mentors are now ready and eager to re-engage with their mentees!
SUPERINTENDENT’S SUMMARY	<p style="text-align: center;">www.febps.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Advanced Placement students saw a 161 percent growth in test takers — 239 to 623 — and a 96% increase in exams that scored 3 or better — 263 in 2018. During 17-18 BPS offered 8 additional AP courses in comparison to the previous school year...We congratulate our students and staff on this tremendous accomplishment!! • Sheena Graham, Harding High School music teacher who has taught music for 36 year, is one of the finalist for the 2019 Connecticut Teacher of the Year!! • On Saturday, September 22nd the CT NAACP 100 Most Influential Blacks in the State of Connecticut gala will take place of which Dr. Johnson is one of the recipients at 6:00 pm at the Foxwoods Resort Casino. • On Saturday, September 29th, the West Indian American Association of Bridgeport will host their 21st Annual Scholarship Banquet and present Dr. Johnson with their 2018 Education Award at 7:30 pm at Grassy Hill Country Club.

School	Date of Visit
Aquaculture	
Barnum	9-5
Bassick	
Batalla	9-6
Beardsley	9-7
Black Rock	9-12
Blackham	9-13
*BLC	
BMA	9-14
Bryant	9-17
Central	9-18
CSMA	9-20
Claytor	9-21

Columbus	
Cross	
Curiale	
Discovery	
Dunbar	
Edison	
FCW: Aero	
FCW: IT	
FCW: Zoo	
Hall	
Hallen	
Harding	
HHM	
Hooker	

Johnson	
Madison	
Marin	
MCM	
PCM	
Read	
Roosevelt	
*Skane	
Tisdale	
Waltersville	
Winthrop	
*Detention Center	
*University School	
Adult Education	