



State of Connecticut
SENATE
STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
SENATE REPUBLICAN OFFICES

August 9, 2025

Dear Commissioner Russell-Tucker,

We write to express concerns about the Bridgeport school system increasing the distance some students must walk to school by half a mile. (<https://www.ctpost.com/news/education/article/bridgeport-ct-school-bus-cuts-student-attendance-20347303.php>)

Education experts warn this could lead to an increase in tardiness and absenteeism.

We are less than a month away from school starting. District officials have not yet identified the individual students who will no longer have access to bus service when those distances grow by half a mile. The change will affect about 1,700 elementary students and 600 high schoolers.

Some Bridgeport students may have the longest walks to school in the U.S. after these bus route cuts.

With this in mind, we respectfully ask your department to seek answers. For example:

Which specific students will this impact?

How can the Bridgeport school system know the number of students impacted, but not know the specific kids?

When will their families be notified?

Thank you for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Berthel".

Eric Berthel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harding".

Stephen Harding