

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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Contact: Tess Koenigsmark  
860-240-8790

## **Rep. Ziogas Announces Final Legislative Approval of Memorial Boulevard School Funding** *\$55 million in funding for future arts magnet school*

State **Rep. Chris Ziogas** (D-Bristol) announced the House's approval late Wednesday of a school construction bill containing \$55 million in state funding for the renovation of Memorial Boulevard School for use as an arts and theater magnet school. The funding represents a 68 percent rate of reimbursement for the project.

"The renovation of Memorial Boulevard School has been one of my top priorities, and the approval of this funding is a big step forward. Having an arts and theater magnet school in Bristol will provide an additional educational opportunity for our students while putting an important historic building to good use," **Rep. Ziogas** said. "The state will reimburse over two thirds of the construction costs, making this a smart fiscal move for Bristol. I'd like to thank Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and Board of Education Chairman Chris Wilson for all their work on the local level to advance this initiative."

"This is a win-win for Bristol on many fronts," stated Bristol Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. "There has been widespread community support for a practical re-use of this historic building since the day it closed. A performing arts magnet school will be a great asset in marketing Bristol as an attractive place to live and work. The historic theater, which is a gem, will also be a catalyst for more positive activity in the downtown area."

In January of 2017, Rep. Ziogas and Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz toured Memorial Boulevard School along with members of the City Council and Board of Education. The purpose of the tour was to discuss potential funding to renovate Memorial for use as an arts and theater magnet school.

In August, the Bristol Board of Education voted to file an application with the state for the creation of an arts magnet school at Memorial Boulevard School.

The school closed in 2012, and the 90,000-square-foot building has gone unused for several years after prior plans for its use failed to come to fruition. The arts and theater magnet school would be home to Bristol's largest performance theater.

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