

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



Tuesday, January 26, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRIDGEPORT LEGISLATORS: REGIONAL APPROACH TO SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES TAKES STEP FORWARD

Bridgeport State Representatives Andre Baker (D-124th), Charlie Stallworth (D-126th), Jack Hennessy (D-127th), Christopher Rosario (D-128th), Steve Stafstrom (D-129th), Ezequiel Santiago (D-130th) are pleased a bill that will facilitate providing services to special needs students within the city has passed the House and Senate.

Bridgeport House Delegation, "The increasing cost of special education has placed a strain on many school budgets, especially Bridgeport's. We are confident that a regional special education school can improve education outcomes for many students. This measure will save education transportation dollars and will contribute to Speaker Brendan Sharkey's push for a regional approach to government services. We thank him for working with us to pass legislation that will make this plan a possibility."

"I applaud Bridgeport's initiative to pursue a more efficient regional approach to providing special education services," said Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey (D-Hamden). "This model will not only offer savings to local taxpayers, but help ensure students in Bridgeport and surrounding towns have better access to the best services available."

Among other things, the bill allows Bridgeport to begin the process of establishing a school to provide services for special needs students that are currently being served outside the district with the related transportation costs. Bridgeport will be able to serve students from area districts for a more regional approach to special education services.

[Public Act 16-144](#) was passed in the 2016 Legislative Session.

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