



## **PRESS ADVISORY**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **First-time Report Cites Bridgeport's Most Improved Schools To be Announced at Press Conference**

**WHO:** The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (BCAC), and the Bridgeport Board of Education will hold a joint-press conference to release a first-time report on the five most improved schools in Bridgeport over a five-year period.

BCAC is a coalition of organizations, parents, and other concerned individuals committed to improving the well-being of Bridgeport's children through research, advocacy, community education and mobilization ([www.bcacct.org](http://www.bcacct.org)).

**WHAT:** The report, "Five Bridgeport Schools Rise to the Challenge," recognizes these schools for their significant gains despite severe budget cuts in the Bridgeport School District over the last five years. The BCAC analyzed CMT and CAPT scores for 24 Bridgeport schools using test scores in grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**At the press conference, officials will announce:**

- Which five schools showed the most improvement over 5 years.
- What measures were used to determine the schools making significant gains in test scores.
- What steps were taken at these most-improved schools to raise test scores during these periods, based on interviews with school principals.

**WHEN:** September 4, 2008, at 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Columbus School (temporary location), University of Bridgeport Campus, 600 University Ave.

**WHY:** The Bridgeport School District has been identified as a district "in need of improvement" every year since 2002. Despite devastating budget cuts over the last five years and other challenges and increasing proficiency requirements, these five schools showed substantial gains in reading and math from 2002 to 2007. It is important to recognize and celebrate these achievements.

"We have high expectations for every student. Our limited resources make it challenging, but do not give us an excuse to expect any less than their academic best," said School Superintendent John J. Ramos, Sr. "These five-achieving schools are not only models for others to follow, but they also show that with a committed team of educators and collaboration, students can achieve. While some of our schools are still struggling to improve test schools, these schools show that we cannot underestimate student potential reach and even surpass goals."