

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
For the Month of November 2025**

Bridgeport Public Library has been invited to submit a proposal for The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at Uconn to expand access to library services for incarcerated individuals people transitioning through reentry programs. This opportunity for funding will complement the grant we have received from Comcast to expand our digital navigator program with instruction and device distribution. Our demographic focus is on re-entry individuals and their families and we look forward to submitting a proposal that would enable us to expand our outreach with re-entry and second chance individuals.

Comcast completed their donation to the library of \$20,000, earmarked for our digital navigation program. As stated above, we will focus our resources on our partners at MIRA (The Mayor's Initiative for Re-entry Affairs and add other community partners that can offer outreach to children of second chance individuals.

I have included a comparative analysis of Bridgeport Public Library as retrieved from the ALA Benchmark database. This database offers national comparisons; however, the most recent data is 2022. For local comparative data or for comparisons on the state level, our CLA annual statistics as found on the Division of Library Development Website would probably be more useful.

I attended a breakfast sponsored by Bridgeport Public Schools on November 14. There has been good news reported for some individual schools' performance with Bridgeport Public Schools. Dr. Avery gave an inspiring speech about adding "marbles into a jar," when sharing his personal thoughts about what student success in Bridgeport will look like. Each marble is a positive thought or expectation that our students can live up to as they achieve academic and personal success. The library continues to move forward with our meetings with the schools to arrange library visits and other services to the schools. BPS is interested in having students access the library's library catalog with their individual school ID numbers. This request will take some discussions with Bibliomation, and may have a cost associated with it. We will continue discussions with all parties and report to the Library Board as things develop in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
December 17, 2025