



Ensuring Opportunity through Education

We will not continue to lead the world if our citizens do not have access to the best education. America must ensure all children have access to an education that prepares them to succeed in school and beyond, and our workforce continues to develop and thrive to respond to the changing economy.

Closing the Achievement Gap

Jim knows that the key to a healthy and competitive economy is a well-educated society, but Connecticut has the worst achievement gap in the country. While lots of teachers, parents, and students are doing extraordinary things, many children are not provided the opportunities they need and deserve, and even our best schools could do better with the resources they have.

- Jim wrote and passed legislation to create a national competitive grant to fund early childhood education programs. The program is based on Bridgeport's Total Learning Program which takes a multifaceted approach to learning, including: nutrition, music, mental health and literacy, among others.
- Jim directed over \$65 million from the Recovery Act to update 4th District schools facilities and equipment, help economically disadvantaged schools receive a quality education, and to provide services to children with special needs.
- Jim secured an extra \$500,000 for after-school programs in Bridgeport.
- Jim helped save teachers jobs and laid the foundation for years of educational reforms and improvements through a bill that provided Connecticut with over \$363 million.
- Jim recently helped pass a new law that will save 1,500 Connecticut teaching jobs and keep class sizes low so that students are able to get the attention they need.
- Jim secured \$700,000 for Action for Bridgeport Community Development's early education Total Learning Program.

Making Quality Education Attainable and Affordable

Not only do we need to improve our education system, but we need to make sure that students from all economic backgrounds will be able to take advantage of the 4th Districts schools and educational programs.

- Jim helped pass legislation giving students the opportunity to earn \$500 toward college expenses by volunteering in their community.
- Jim secured over \$600,000 for WorkPlace Inc.'s YouthBuild program, which helps at-risk youth acquire their diploma or GED while they receive vocational training in the construction industry.

Understanding the Importance of Continuing Education

There is not an age limit for learning, and Jim knows training is essential to remaining versatile in this recovering economy.

- Jim has held workshops to inform veterans of their education benefits as well as stipends for books and housing that they can access up to 15 years after they're no longer on active duty in an effort to encourage veterans to return to school.
- Jim directed \$1.4 billion, in 2009, for training and support services for people who found themselves unemployed due to plant closures and other reactions to the struggling economy.
- Jim helped secure a \$300,000 grant to provide at-risk veterans with the educational tools they need to successfully join the workforce and avoid homelessness.