



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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GOVERNOR

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## **Statement of Governor Rell and Commissioner Sternberg Concerning Meeting with Federal Officials on NCLB**

*Governor M. Jodi Rell and Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg issued the following joint statement after Commissioner Sternberg's meeting today with U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to discuss issues relating to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.*

“The meeting today with Secretary Spellings and her staff was cordial and informative. We were able to make our case and to hear the views of federal officials.

“While we were not able to resolve our differences at this one meeting, we are hopeful that we will be able to continue this type of conversation with decision makers at the U.S. Department of Education. Good decisions are made only when people committed to common goals keep talking to each other about what's important. We are hopeful that this is exactly what will happen in this situation.

“We made it clear to Secretary Spellings that we are – and always will be – committed to closing the achievement gaps among Connecticut's students. We believe in the core goals of No Child Left Behind, and will focus relentlessly on closing those gaps while improving the achievement of *all* our students. We also believe that Connecticut's request to test in a different way that is more effective and less costly is very much in the spirit of leaving no child behind.”

“At the meeting, we asked federal education officials to consider a concept we presented of conducting a series of periodic assessments for students in Grades 3, 5, and 7. These assessments would serve as an alternative to expanding formalized statewide standardized testing for those grades. This approach would accomplish NCLB goals by providing constant feedback for improving curriculum and instruction but would be much less expensive and time consuming to administer.”

**NOTE:** In addition to Commissioner Sternberg, Connecticut was represented at today's meeting by Allan B. Taylor, chairperson of the Connecticut State Board of Education, and Mark A. Stapleton, chief of the State Department of Education's Office of Legal and Governmental Affairs.