



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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Governor Rell Appoints Hopkins-Staten to State Board of Education

Governor M. Jodi Rell has appointed Theresa Hopkins-Staten of West Hartford to serve on the Connecticut State Board of Education ending March 1, 2009. Hopkins-Staten succeeds Craig Toensing of Falls Village on the Board.

Hopkins-Staten serves as Chair and President of the Northeast Utilities Foundation, Inc. and as Director of Corporate Community Relations and Programs at Northeast Utilities. At Northeast Utilities, Hopkins-Staten creates educational initiatives and oversees the awarding of grants to schools across Connecticut.

“Theresa is passionate about education,” Governor Rell said. “She believes that providing all children with a quality education is one of the greatest contributions we can make to our society. Theresa understands that the continued strength and economic vitality of our state depends on having an educated workforce.

“Theresa views each child and each educational issue with care, caution, compassion and concern. She will make an excellent addition to the Board.”

One of Hopkins-Staten’s educational initiatives started in Hartford and expanded to Waterbury and Stamford. The program, called Enlightening the Mind, is an innovative reading program that encourages parents/guardians and their teens to discuss selected books, current events and issues they may wish to resolve.

Another initiative funded by the Northeast Utilities Foundation recently opened at the Learning Corridor’s Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science. This distance learning center provides an interactive, inquiry-based mathematics and science curriculum to students and teachers at various locations throughout Greater Hartford, without them ever leaving their classrooms. Approximately 8,000 students attending eight pilot high schools are currently participating in the program.

Hopkins-Staten also served for several years as Senior Counsel at Northeast Utilities and as a staff attorney at the state's Freedom of Information Commission.

Hopkins-Staten received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Connecticut.

The State Board of Education has general supervision and control over the educational interests of the state, including preschool through adult education, curriculum and instruction, teacher preparation, and research and evaluation. It also serves as the board of education for the state's 17 regional vocational-technical schools. Connecticut has 166 public school districts serving over 570,000 students. The Board oversees a \$1.3 billion budget, primarily consisting of grants to school districts. The Board works closely with the Governor, General Assembly, Commissioner of Education and local boards of education.

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