



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



February 9, 2018

Dear Superintendents and High School Principals:

Since July 1998, two Grade 12 public school students have been seated on the Connecticut State Board of Education ("Board"). The students, who are appointed by the Governor, serve a one-year term, beginning July 1 of each year. This year's student members, Saomai Nguyen of West Hartford and Jaweria Shah of Hamden, have brought unique and valuable perspectives to the Board's deliberations.

We are now beginning the search process for the 2018-19 student Board members. The application package is attached and can be downloaded by accessing the Department's Web site: www.ct.gov/sde/board . Please inform your students of the 2018-19 application process by posting the "Notice to Grade 11 Students" on a centrally located bulletin board and on your Web site, and including this information in your "morning announcements." *Please distribute this notice to your guidance counselors, PTA presidents, and student council members.*

Complete application packages must be postmarked on or before April 13, 2018. Applications postmarked after April 13 will not be accepted. The State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) will review all applications in April and will select students for an interview. A SSACE panel will conduct interviews in May, and will refer five of those individuals to the Governor for his consideration. The Governor will interview the five students and will appoint two students to serve on the Board from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

Please encourage qualified students in your school to submit their applications. I look forward to your school's participation in this unique opportunity for students.

Sincerely,

Dianna R. Wentzell

Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell
Commissioner of Education

Attachment

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

NOTICE TO GRADE 11 STUDENTS

STUDENT MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 2018-19

APPLICATION PROCESS

Every year, the Governor appoints two public school students entering their senior year to serve on the Connecticut State Board of Education for a one-year period (July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019). Student Board members participate fully in discussions about education policy and lend an important perspective to Board deliberations, although they do not have voting privileges. We encourage you to consider applying for membership on the Board.

ARE YOU QUALIFIED?

Students who wish to apply for membership on the Board:

- Must be enrolled in a public high school; *and*
- Must have at least a B+ average; *and*
- Will have completed Grade 11 prior to July 1, 2018; *and*
- Must be able to attend monthly all-day meetings in Hartford (usually the first Wednesday of each month).

HOW TO APPLY

If you meet all of the above qualifications and wish to apply for membership on the Board, please submit the following: (1) application form; (2) three reference letters from your teachers or school administrators; (3) your resume; and (4) a one-page statement describing why you would like to serve on the Board and your opinion on the education issue that you consider to be most critical.

DUE DATE

Completed application packages must be postmarked on or before April 13, 2018. Please submit your completed application package to:

Connecticut State Department of Education
Office of the State Board of Education
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 606
Hartford, CT 06103

SCREENING PROCESS

The State Student Advisory Council on Education will review all application packages. Based on its review, the Council will select applicants for interviews to be conducted in May. At the conclusion of the interview phase, the Council will recommend five candidates to the Governor for his consideration. The Governor will interview the five finalists, and appoint two students to the Board for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2018.

QUESTIONS?

Should you have any questions concerning the responsibilities of a member of the Board or the business it conducts, please refer to the Board's Web site (www.ct.gov/sde). If you have questions about the application process, call the State Board Office at 860-713-6510.

APPLICATION FORM
STUDENT MEMBER
of the
CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____ **Address:** _____
(street)

Telephone: (____) _____ (home) _____
(____) _____ (cell) (town) (zip code)

E-Mail Address: _____

High School: _____
(name and town of school)

I have enclosed the following required application materials:

- application form; and
- three reference letters from my teachers or school administrators attesting to my suitability to serve on the State Board of Education; and
- my resume; and
- a one-page statement describing why I believe I should be appointed as a student member of the State Board of Education and my perspective on the education issues I regard as most important.

I attest that I meet the eligibility criteria (i.e., I am enrolled in a public high school; I have at least a B+ average; and I will have completed Grade 11 by July 1, 2018). I understand that if appointed, I will attend monthly all-day meetings in Hartford and will be responsible for my own transportation.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
(signature of applicant)

COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGES MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 13, 2018.

**SEND TO: Connecticut State Department of Education
Office of the State Board of Education
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 606
Hartford, CT 06103**