

STEFAN PRYOR

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Stefan Pryor serves as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut. Pryor was recommended unanimously by the State Board of Education to Governor Dannel P. Malloy for appointment in September 2011. Under the leadership of the Governor and State Board, Pryor and the State Department of Education are taking a series of steps to advance education reform in Connecticut. For example, the Commissioner and Department are:

- Working to implement a substantial education reform legislative package that the Connecticut General Assembly passed in May and June.
- Carrying out the elements of a successful application for flexibility from requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind act; the U.S. Department of Education approved Connecticut's waiver in May.
- Guiding a significant reorganization of the Department.

Pryor previously served for approximately five years as Deputy Mayor for Economic Development in the City of Newark, NJ. In that capacity, he oversaw the City offices responsible for economic development, city planning, housing, workforce development, ex-offender re-entry, and sustainability, among other areas. He also led Newark's State and Federal legislative efforts. Pryor co-founded and served as Chairman of the Brick City Development Corporation, Newark's economic development organization.

Before his work in Newark, Pryor was President of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC). The LMDC was created in the aftermath of September 11th by the State and City of New York to plan and help coordinate the physical rebuilding and economic



revitalization of Lower Manhattan. Over approximately five years, Pryor served in a number of leadership capacities at the agency, culminating in his service as the LMDC President.

Pryor previously served as a Vice President at the Partnership for New York City. The Partnership is NYC's leading business organization. At the Partnership from 1998-2001, Pryor led the organization's public education

initiatives. The Partnership's education work focused on attracting philanthropic funding to lower-performing NYC public school districts in order to introduce a range of innovations — including performance measurement and compensation, mentor teacher programs, principal signing bonuses for hard-to-staff/low-performing schools, and low-cost mortgages for educators. After September 11th, Pryor helped coordinate the Partnership's efforts to get downtown businesses up and running again. Pryor helped set up an emergency call center for businesses in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, and he helped found ReStart Central, which matched donated and discounted goods and services with 9/11-affected businesses.

In the mid-1990's, Pryor served as Policy Advisor to the Mayor of New Haven, Connecticut. Pryor is a co-founder and was the first Board President of Amistad Academy, a public charter school in New Haven. Amistad is the flagship of the Achievement First network of schools. Pryor served on the board of Achievement First, which has opened more than 20 schools and academies in four cities in Connecticut and New York.

The child of two former public school teachers, Pryor received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University, where he completed the Yale Teacher Preparation Program.