

DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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## **State Board of Education Seeks Comment on Strategic Plan**

(HARTFORD, CT)—The Connecticut State Board of Education on Tuesday released a draft of its fiveyear comprehensive plan, *Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students*, and is seeking feedback from members of the public.

The State Board of Education is charged with developing and releasing a comprehensive master plan for education in Connecticut. This blueprint sets forth the state's vision for education and provides a direction over the next five years for policy considerations and administrative actions that are designed to ensure that every student succeeds within a culture of high expectations.

The plan can be accessed here: <u>Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students</u>. Members of the public wishing to submit feedback on the plan may send comments to <u>SDE.compplanfeedback@ct.gov</u>.

"This five-year comprehensive plan represents the Board's commitment to the mission of providing a great education in an outstanding school for every child in Connecticut," said State Board of Education Chairperson Allan B. Taylor. "The specific goals laid out in the plan create a blueprint for ensuring that every student—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, income, or disability status—is prepared to succeed in college, career, and civic life. We look forward to receiving additional feedback on the plan as we strive to collectively forge a path to a brighter future for our children and families."

"It is critical that we take collective responsibility for ensuring all Connecticut students have access to the kind of education that prepares them to succeed in lifelong learning and work beyond school," Education Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell said. "We want this comprehensive plan to be a guiding document that reflects the hopes and aspirations as well as the high expectations we all have for our children, so I strongly urge Connecticut residents to read the draft plan and send us your comments and ideas."

As part of the planning process, the State Board of Education and Commissioner Wentzell recommitted to their ongoing efforts to pursue both excellence and equity for all Connecticut's students. A team of professionals representing all six of Connecticut's regional educational service centers was convened and asked to help the Board design a strategic plan that would achieve this goal over the next five years.

The process for developing the plan involved engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including members of the public and 46 focus groups. The Board received feedback and more than 15,000

comments from over 6,700 respondents who took an online survey that sought to gain insight and perspective about the aspirations, challenges, and concerns pertaining to education in Connecticut. The feedback received during this process helped inform and provide direction in the development of this five-year comprehensive plan.

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