

Questions for Student Nominees to the State Board of Education

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State Board of Education (SBE) ([CGS §§ 10-1](#), [10-3a](#) & [10-4](#))

SBE consists of 14 members: 10 voting members who serve staggered four-year terms; two nonvoting, current high school seniors who serve one-year terms; and the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the chairperson of the technical high school system board who serve as nonvoting, ex-officio members.

The board has general supervision and control over preschool, elementary, and secondary education; special education; adult education; and vocational education. It also oversees the duty of boards of education to implement the “educational interests of the state,” which by law require the following:

1. each student has an equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of educational experiences;
2. each school district finances at a reasonable level an educational program designed to achieve this end;
3. each school district provides its students educational opportunities to interact with students from other racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds; and
4. statutory mandates within SBE’s jurisdiction are implemented.

Other SBE duties include setting educational policy in collaboration with the governor and legislature; adopting statewide subject matter content standards to fulfill graduation requirements; authorizing charter schools; adjudicating complaints against local boards of education; and serving

as the final administrative appeal board for the issuance and revocation of teaching certificates and other educational credentials.

Questions for Nominees

1. As a high school senior, how do you plan to represent the interests of students in all grades while serving on the State Board of Education?
2. What do you think is the most important issue that the board should address during your term?
3. Every year, legislators consider proposals to add new mandatory subjects to be taught in public schools. Do you think there are any missing subjects or classes that all students should take?
4. Public schools are often called upon to provide health services to students, both mental and physical. What do you believe is the biggest health issue students face that affects their success in the classroom?
5. Students are increasingly asked to plan their futures at an earlier age: many middle schools are exposing students to different career paths, and some high schools are partnering with companies to offer college credits and job training before graduation. What do you think is the best way to guide students toward post-high school career success?
6. In your experience, what qualities does an outstanding teacher have? How can Connecticut encourage more students to explore teaching careers?
7. Last year, the legislature passed a law creating a school climate advisory board that must develop a model positive school climate policy ([PA 19-166](#)). What do you think schools should do to make all students feel socially, emotionally, and physically safe?
8. According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), Connecticut is one of four states in the country that reports an average high school start time earlier than 7:45 a.m. (Louisiana, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire are the others). What do you think is a good high school start time for student success?
9. One of SBE's duties is to ensure that each school district gives its students opportunities to interact with students from other racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Do you have any ideas about what schools can do to increase these opportunities?

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