



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

State Board of Education



February 3, 2026

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.

We are now beginning the search process for the 2026-27 student Board members. The application package is attached and can be downloaded by accessing the Connecticut State Department of Education's website at <https://portal.ct.gov/sde>. Please inform your students of the 2026-27 application process by posting the *Notice to Grade 11 Students* on a centrally located bulletin board, on your website, and any other means of communicating with students, including morning announcements. *Please distribute this notice to your school counselors, PTA presidents, and student council members.*

Completed application packages must be received by mail **or** email (in .pdf format) by March 18, 2026. The **submitted .pdf order** is (1) signed 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.

Applications received after March 18 will **not** be accepted. The State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) will review all applications in April 2026 and will select students for an interview. An SSACE panel will conduct interviews in May 2026, and will refer five of those individuals to the Governor for his consideration. The Governor will appoint two students to serve on the Board from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

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,

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education



NOTICE TO GRADE 11 STUDENTS

Student Member of the Connecticut State Board of Education, 2026–27

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, 2026 through June 30, 2027). Although they do not have voting privileges, student Board members participate fully in discussions about education policy and lend an important perspective to Board deliberations. 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, 2026; and
- must be able to attend monthly all-day meetings in Hartford (usually the first Wednesday of each month).

Screening Process

The State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) will review all application packages. Based on its review, the Council will select applicants for interviews to be conducted in May 2026. At the conclusion of the interview phase, the Council will recommend five candidates to the governor for his consideration. The governor will appoint two students to the Board for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2026.

Notice of State Student Advisory Council on Education:

Application packages for 2026–2027 will be electronically submitted to members of SSACE for their virtual and in-person review.

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 website (www.ct.gov/sde/board). If you have questions about the application process, call the State Board Office at 860-713-6510.

How to Apply

If you meet all of the qualifications and wish to apply for membership on the Board, please submit the following:

- application form;
- three reference letters from your teachers or school administrators;
- your resume; and
- 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 received by mail or email by March 18, 2026.

Please submit your completed application package by mail **or** email to:

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

Email: SDE.StateBoard@ct.gov



APPLICATION FORM

Student Member of the Connecticut State Board of Education

July 1, 2026 — June 30, 2027

Please complete the following:

Please note: Once you have completed your application, save it to your computer for emailing or printing and mailing to CSDE.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email Address: _____

High School: (name and town) _____

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, 2026). *I understand that if appointed, I will attend monthly all-day meetings in Hartford and will be responsible for my own transportation.*

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

I intend that my typed name to be an electronic signature as defined in the Connecticut Uniform Electronic Transactions Act and that it be accepted as the legal equivalent of my handwritten signature on this document.

Completed application packages must be received by mail or email by March 18, 2026. Send to:

Connecticut State Department of Education
Office of the State Board of Education
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 606
Hartford, CT 06103
Email: SDE.StateBoard@ct.gov