

# STEFAN PRYOR NAMED COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

On September 7, 2011, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to recommend to the Governor the appointment of Stefan Pryor as the Commissioner of Education. Immediately after the Board's vote, Governor Malloy introduced Stefan Pryor as his pick for the Commissioner's post. State Board of Education Chairperson Allan B. Taylor stated, "He's gone from success to success to success. He's been able to marshal the resources and people to get things done very effectively."



Governor Malloy called Mr. Pryor the right candidate to move the state's educational system forward. "I steadfastly believe that all of our children deserve a quality educational experience...and I think Stefan is the right candidate to bring about all the changes to move this state in the direction of guaranteeing that success."

Mr. Pryor currently serves as Deputy Mayor for Economic Development in the City of Newark, New Jersey. He oversees economic, housing, and workforce development, as well as sustainability. He also coordinates the City's state and federal legislative agenda. Pryor serves as the Chairman of Brick City Development Corporation, Newark's economic development organization, which he helped to found.

Prior to serving as Deputy Mayor, Mr. Pryor served as President of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which was created in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, to plan and help coordinate the physical rebuilding and economic revitalization of Lower Manhattan.

From 1998-2001, Pryor served as the Vice President for Education at the Partnership for New York City, where he led the organization's public education efforts and served as Executive Director of its main school reform program. The Partnership's 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, lead teacher programs (appointing master teachers to serve as mentors to their peers), principal signing bonuses for hard-to-staff/

low-performing schools, and low-cost mortgages for educators.

In the mid-1990's, Pryor served as a policy advisor to the Mayor of New Haven on issues ranging from housing and community development to education. While in New Haven, Pryor co-founded and served as the first Board President of Amistad Academy, a high-performing public charter school that now serves as the flagship for the Achievement First network of schools. Pryor served on the board of Achievement First, which has opened 20 academies under 10 charters in Connecticut and New York. Amistad Academy was highlighted by the U.S. Department of Education in 2007 as one of seven schools in the country that are models for closing the achievement gap.

In recent years, Pryor has collaborated with Paul Vallas (the former school superintendent of Chicago, Philadelphia, and the New Orleans Recovery School District) regarding plans for school rebuilding and reform in post-disaster Haiti. Pryor also served as an advisor to the International Rescue Committee regarding the economic recovery in Haiti.

The child of two public school teachers, Pryor received his bachelor's degree in psychology and law degree from Yale University, where he completed the Yale Teacher Preparation Program.

Mr. Pryor indicated that his first task as Commissioner will be to gather information from people around the state, including employers who have positions unfilled because the state's young people are not adequately trained for those jobs. "Here in Connecticut, there are bright spots and best practices; there are excellent schools and exemplary districts. But there are also too many places where students are not fulfilling their potential," Pryor said. "This situation merits a mandate for change. We must respond with real and sustained urgency."

Mr. Pryor will begin his work with the department in the first week of October, 2011.

Mr. Pryor's remarks following his appointment can be found at the following link: [Connecticut Network Video](#)