



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Connecticut General Assembly – Education Committee
Testimony of Allan Taylor, chair, State Board of Education and
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, vice-chair, State Board of Education
March 19, 2015

Thank you, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Lavielle, and members of the Education Committee for the opportunity to comment on proposals before the committee today. Due to previous commitments, we are unfortunately unable to attend today's proceeding but wish to submit comments on S.B. No. 1099, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Commission to Develop a Vision and Strategic Plan for the Connecticut Education System.

Under current statute, the articulation of a vision and the development of a strategic plan for Connecticut's education system are functions of the State Board of Education. Working with the Commissioner, the State Board of Education convenes a very broad group of educational stakeholders who give voice and bring diverse perspectives to the table as we chart a course forward for education in Connecticut.

For these purposes, the State Board of Education convened the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, which consists of over 38 representatives of teachers, educators, parents, community organizations, business leaders, advocates, higher education, early childhood, and other state agencies. While our process has been placed on hold during the transition in leadership at the CSDE, the Department continues to operate under our previous five-year master plan. The State Board of Education looks forward to making the completion of this plan our first charge for the incoming Education Commissioner.

A successful process must include different ideas and opinions. And a successful plan must be representative of all ideas and voices. We understand and appreciate the committee's passion for education and concern for laying out a thoughtful path onward. We would invite the Education Committee co-chairs or designees to participate on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee referenced above.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, we welcome the opportunity for further discussions regarding ways to strengthen our partnership and moving Connecticut's education system forward together.