

February 3, 2015

Good afternoon, esteemed members of the Executive and Legislative Nomination Committee.

My name is Dr. Estela Lopez and I am honored to come before you to be considered for a second term in the State Board of Education.

Serving in the State Board of Education during the past four year has been a privilege. During this time, I have participated in enacting a number of policies to address the achievement gap and to ensure Connecticut Public Schools are the best in the nation. Significant work has been done to achieve these goals, but much more remains to be done, including confirming that the reforms that have been put in place, along with other multiple initiatives, are yielding the expected outcomes and if they are not, to modify them accordingly. I am committed to accountability at all levels and to making modifications along the way to ensure impact and effectiveness of school reform. But I am also committed to the notion that each one of the children of Connecticut deserves access to the best education.

I appeared four years ago before you and stated that "education is the best investment the State can make. It is an investment in the future, an investment that was made many years ago on someone like me which has allowed me to now stand in front of you."

I appreciate your time and consideration and welcome any questions you may have for me.

Thank you.

Estela Lopez
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