



## QUESTIONS FOR NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION NOMINEE

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### **NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION (CGA §§ 10A-61, 10A-62, & 10A-63)**

- The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) consists of eight delegates from each New England state.
- The governor appoints two members for six-year terms; the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore each appoints three members for two-year terms. One of the speaker's appointees must be a state representative, and one of the president pro tempore's appointees must be a state senator.
- Both houses confirm the governor's appointees.
- NEBHE administers the New England Higher Education Compact, an agreement among the New England states to provide greater educational opportunities and services through the establishment and maintenance of a coordinated educational program for New England residents.
- NEBHE also administers the New England Regional Student Program, which enables students to receive a discount on out-of-state tuition in compact states that provide programs their home-state institutions do not. The board also prepares reports on higher education issues affecting New England.



## QUESTIONS

1. What is the board's mission? What kinds of policy matters does it consider? Are there any suggestions you would make for changes in the board's activities?
2. What issues will you promote during your tenure on the board?
3. What benefit does Connecticut derive from participating in the New England Higher Education Compact? What does it cost the state to participate?
4. What are the greatest challenges facing higher education in New England generally and Connecticut specifically? What can NEBHE do to address them?
5. Are there any higher education policy initiatives in the other New England states that you believe Connecticut should consider replicating?
6. NEBHE is currently conducting a study of state financial aid programs in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. According to NEBHE, its purpose is to examine how states might redesign and align their student financial aid policies, priorities, and programs with state needs to increase postsecondary attainment. In your opinion, how well do Connecticut's financial aid programs (e.g., the governor's scholarship) meet these objectives?
7. NEBHE and other regional higher education interstate compacts established the Statewide Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), a nationwide reciprocity agreement on distance learning. What benefits would Connecticut realize from participating in SARA? What are the potential drawbacks of participating?
8. Opponents of SARA argue that it would allow higher education institutions to operate in Connecticut even if their home state accreditation standards are weaker than Connecticut's. Do you share this concern? Please explain.
9. During the 2015-16 academic year, 1,179 New England residents enrolled at Connecticut's public higher education institutions through the Regional Student Program, compared with 1,529 Connecticut students who went to institutions in other New England states. Why do you think the state is losing more students than it attracts through the program? Does the outflow of Connecticut students suggest the need to develop certain programs in the state?
10. Besides the Regional Student Program, in what ways does the board promote regional cooperation and efficiency among higher education institutions?

TA:cmg