

Questions for Student Nominees to the State Board of Education

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State Board of Education (SBE) (CGS §§ [10-1](#), [10-3a](#) & [10-4](#))

SBE consists of 14 members: 10 voting members who serve staggered four-year terms; two nonvoting, current high school student members who serve one-year terms; and the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the chairperson of the technical high school system board who serve as nonvoting, ex-officio members.

The board has general supervision and control over elementary and secondary education, special education, adult education, and vocational education. It also oversees the duty of boards of education to implement the “educational interests of the state,” which by law require the following:

1. each student has an equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of educational experiences;
2. each school district finances at a reasonable level an educational program designed to achieve this end;
3. each school district provides its students educational opportunities to interact with students from other racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds; and
4. statutory mandates within SBE’s jurisdiction are implemented.

Other SBE duties include, among other things, setting educational policy in collaboration with the governor and legislature; adopting statewide subject matter content standards to fulfill graduation requirements; authorizing charter schools; adjudicating complaints against local boards of education; and serving as the final administrative appeal board for the issuance and revocation of teaching certificates and other educational credentials.

Questions for Nominees

1. What are the major issues you would like SBE to address during your term?
2. As a nonvoting member, how do you plan to influence the board's deliberations?
3. SBE makes decisions that affect public school students across Connecticut. As a student member of the board, how do you plan to represent the interests of students of all ages from all around the state, not just those students in your own school or in your grade?
4. What do you believe to be the most important subject areas that students should be required to study before they graduate high school?
5. Use of e-cigarettes (or "vaping"), prescription drug abuse, and mental health issues are some of the health issues facing teens today. What role do you believe SBE has in addressing these issues?
6. One of SBE's duties is to ensure that each school district gives its students opportunities to interact with students from other racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Do you have any ideas about what schools can do to increase these opportunities?
7. Connecticut has many different public school options for students, including neighborhood public schools, magnet schools, and charter schools. How do you plan on advocating for students who attend all different types of public schools?
8. What type of teachers do you think Connecticut should be recruiting to work in public schools? What types of skills and life experiences should they bring to the classroom?
9. School safety and safe school climate are currently hot topics nationwide. What do you think SBE needs to know about students' thoughts on school safety?

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