

Questions for Nominees to the State Education Resource Center Board

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State Education Resource Center (SERC) ([CGS § 10-357a et seq.](#))

SERC is a quasi-public agency created to:

1. assist the State Board of Education (SBE) with, among other things, programs and activities to promote educational equity and excellence; and
2. provide training, professional development, and technical assistance for local and regional boards of education, school leaders, teachers, and families through seminars, publications, and site visits; maintain a state education resource center library; and conduct research and evaluation.

SERC is not an agency or department of the state and its staff are not state employees.

SERC Board

By law, the SERC board exercises authority over the center, hires an executive director, and establishes policies and procedures. It consists of the education commissioner, or her designee, and the 12 members. The governor appoints four members who must be confirmed by both chambers of the General Assembly. The two members appointed by SBE must also be confirmed by the legislature. The legislative leaders appoint the six remaining members.

Questions for Nominees

1. What do you see as SERC's primary mission? Do you see its mission changing compared with what it has done historically?
2. Helping local districts with special education services and professional development have always been central to SERC's duties. Has the COVID-19 pandemic, and its related interruption of in-person schooling, caused the board to explore ways SERC can improve in these areas?
3. Overall, has the pandemic affected what services SERC provides?
4. Which policies and procedures should the board make its top priority?
5. [PA 14-212](#) reconstituted SERC as an independent quasi-public agency (separate from the State Department of Education (SDE)) and governed under its own board of directors. Has the organization faced any particular challenges since becoming a quasi-public agency?
6. As an independent entity, does SERC seek grants and other funding streams on its own (outside of its primary funding through SDE)? What funding sources will SERC explore?
7. To what extent does SERC coordinate its mission and activities with SDE and SBE?
8. [PA 19-12](#) required SERC to develop the one-credit high school course in black and Latino studies that public school districts are required to offer. Now that the course is completed and being implemented, does SERC still have a role in any further follow-up? Was developing the course a good fit for SERC's mission?
9. Is there any area in the field of education in which SERC should be more involved?

JM:co