



For Immediate Release:

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### **SENATE CONFIRMS STEFAN PRYOR AS CONNECTICUT'S EDUCATION COMMISSIONER**

On February 29, 2012, the Connecticut State Senate confirmed the appointment of Stefan Pryor as State Commissioner of Education. The appointment was voted unanimously. Commissioner Pryor leads the State's system of 166 school districts and the Connecticut Technical High School System comprised of 17 schools.

On September 7, 2011, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to recommend to the Governor the appointment of Stefan Pryor as the Commissioner of Education. Immediately after the Board's vote, Governor Dannel P. Malloy introduced Stefan Pryor as his pick for the Commissioner's post. In turn, Governor Malloy sent his appointment to the General Assembly for consideration. Pryor previously served as Deputy Mayor for Economic Development in the City of Newark, New Jersey.

"Stefan Pryor will be a superb Education Commissioner for the state of Connecticut. I commend the Governor on making this creative and inspired appointment," said Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney who made the motion to confirm Commissioner Pryor.

"Commissioner Pryor has created a bold new vision for public education in Connecticut. He is a change agent, who, along with Governor Malloy, has set an unmistakable tone of urgency that insists student success from early childhood through college and career is our foremost priority," said State Board of Education Chairperson Allan B. Taylor.

During his nearly five months of work in Connecticut, Pryor has met with a wide range of educational stakeholders in the state who have embraced the need for educational reform. These constituencies include superintendents, principals, boards of education, teachers, parents, students, business leaders, among many others.

Commissioner Pryor's ongoing work continues to embrace Governor Malloy's Six Guiding Principles:

- Enhance families' access to high-quality early childhood education opportunities.
- Authorize the intensive interventions and enable the supports necessary to turn around Connecticut's lowest-performing schools and districts.
- Expand the availability of high-quality school models, including traditional schools, magnets, charters, and others.
- Unleash innovation by removing red tape and other barriers to success, especially in high-performing schools and districts.
- Ensure that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals—working within a fair system that values their skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure.
- Deliver more resources, targeted to districts with the greatest need—provided that they embrace key reforms that position our students for success.

"I am humbled by the support and trust of Governor Malloy and the State Board of Education, and thank the members of the General Assembly for confirming my nomination," said Pryor. "I am honored to help lead the revitalization of public education in Connecticut. I am reminded by countless citizens that this is a special moment for our state and we at the Department of Education intend to seize the moment in order to advance our education system and position our students for success in college and career."

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