



For Immediate Release:

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## State Board Chair Allan B. Taylor wins national award Recognized for distinguished service to public education

(HARTFORD, CT) — The National Association of Boards of Education (NASBE) has bestowed its highest honor on State Board of Education Chair Allan B. Taylor.

NASBE announced that Taylor received its 2014 Distinguished Service Award, which is given annually in recognition of outstanding service to public education.

In selecting Taylor, NASBE cited his “exceptional leadership” in providing a “precise compass” for the Board to follow in improving public education for all children in Connecticut.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said Taylor’s decades-long record of distinguished public service makes him well deserving of national recognition.

“Mr. Taylor has served four governors in his 20 years on the State Board, and during my administration his partnership has helped guide and implement major innovations to public education in Connecticut,” Governor Malloy said. “He has dedicated his life to serving others through years of voluntary public service. His steadfast focus on doing what is best for children helps make Connecticut a better place to learn, live, and grow. He is an asset to our state and we are fortunate to have him. Congratulations, Allan.”

Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor noted the educational progress Connecticut has made during Taylor’s leadership.

“An entire generation of students has benefitted tremendously from all that Chairman Taylor has brought to the table over two decades of service—including his exemplary dedication, calm perspective, attention to detail, consistent ability to focus on what is most important, and incredible wisdom,” Pryor said. “I offer Allan my congratulations for this much-deserved honor. And I thank him for his continuing leadership.”

Taylor was nominated for NASBE’s consideration by his State Board of Education colleagues. State Board of Education Vice Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten noted that Taylor is “a passionate leader with an unwavering commitment to an equitable and high quality education for all of Connecticut’s children, regardless of social class or ethnicity,”

Stephen P. Wright, State Board of Education member, said Taylor “volunteers his time for the improvement of our public schools at the sake of the time he could spend at home or pursuing a law career.

“The value that he adds to the Board could not be measured by any monetary standard,” Wright said. “He does it because he believes we are strengthened when we fully attend to those who are most vulnerable.”

Reflecting on the award, Taylor said a sense of urgency must be present in his work and that of the Board if Connecticut is going to solve the challenges that schools across the state face every day.

“The role of the State Board is to ask questions and keep our system open to the changes that must be allowed to occur for our most vulnerable and most struggling learners to succeed and achieve their full potential,” he said. “We have a responsibility to help each other and to help those in need. My fellow Board members and I are dedicated and resolved to continue our pursuit of this goal.”

Taylor is serving his fifth full term on the Board. He has been Board chairperson since 2005 and a Board member since 1994. He also has served on the Hartford Board of Education and the Hartford City Council, as well as numerous other committees, associations, boards, councils, and groups.

NASBE will present the award to Taylor on Oct. 17 at its annual conference in Denver.

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