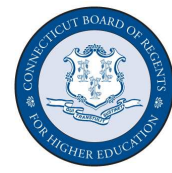




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



June 27, 2012

Dear Connecticut Education Leader:

In declaring this the year of education reform, Governor Malloy recognized that the State must also do its part to support the training and development of teachers and school leaders to fulfill our responsibilities in educating Connecticut students. The Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), co-chaired by Dr. Robert Kennedy (President of the Board of Regents for Higher Education) and myself, was established on March 7, 2012 by the State Board of Education for this purpose. The Council will develop a system for the approval, quality, regulation, oversight, and accreditation of Connecticut educator preparation programs with the goal of the following:

- Improving the preparation of teachers and school leaders;
- Ensuring educator preparation programs are well-aligned with the needs of Connecticut's schools and districts;
- Recommending reforms to the state's educator certification regulations so that state policies align with an outcome-based system of accreditation and oversight;
- Establishing rigorous standards for acceptance into teacher and administrator preparation programs; and
- Meeting objectives articulated in the materials presented to the State Board of Education.

President Kennedy and I invite you to serve as a member of the Educator Preparation Advisory Council convening on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 from 8:30am to 11:30 am at the State Department of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, Room 307A.

The approved resolution (attached) establishes the structure and membership of the EPAC. The Council consists of one representative from each of the following: Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, Connecticut Education Association, and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut. Additionally, persons selected by the Co-Chairs including but not limited to representatives from teacher and administrator preparation programs in public and independent colleges and universities and from alternate route programs will complete the membership.

As we know, the single most important school-level factor impacting student achievement is the quality of teachers and school leaders. With this in mind, the State Board of Education authorized the establishment of EPAC. Through its authority to accredit education preparation programs in Connecticut, the State Board of Education will look to EPAC to provide recommendations to improve the preparation of teachers and leaders in our state.

On behalf of Governor Malloy, President Kennedy and I thank you in advance for your leadership and participation in the Educator Preparation Advisory Council. Please contact Emily Byrne at emily.byrne@ct.gov to confirm your membership and attendance.

Regards,

Stefan Pryor
Commissioner, State Department of Education

Dr. Robert A. Kennedy
President, Board of Regents
for Higher Education