

## Commissioner's Update

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September 27, 2010

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have three items for you in this update.

### **State Board of Education Welcomes Two New Members**

The State Board of Education welcomed two new members recently, William Fritz of Yalesville and Joseph J. Vrabely Jr. of Glastonbury.

Mr. Fritz retired from teaching after 33 years, including 23 years at Mark T. Sheehan High School in Wallingford and 10 years at Lyman Hall High School, where he taught industrial arts, woodworking, drafting and electronics. He coached the boys varsity baseball and girls basketball teams, and taught students with special needs in the shops at the high school level.

Mr. Vrabely is president and co-owner of Atlantic Steel & Processing LLC. For the first 19 years of his career, Mr. Vrabely worked at Ryerson Steel, the largest metals distribution company in the United States. Mr. Vrabely hosts a monthly talk show, "Manufacturing Matters," and is engaged in numerous education and civic initiatives.

### **Revisions to Regional School Choice Office Web Site Completed**

The Phase 1 revisions to the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) Web site have been completed. The revised RSCO Web site is now live at <http://www.choiceeducation.org/>.

### **Reimbursement Available for New Lawn and Grounds Equipment**

A new program provides reimbursement for 80 percent of the costs of replacing older, lawn maintenance equipment with newer, more energy-efficient and cleaner burning equipment.

The Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund (LEEF) is administered by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The program has \$500,000 available for reimbursements to cities and towns when they replace older equipment with new cleaner equipment that meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or California small engine standards. The LEEF program will help to achieve reductions in overall air pollution, air toxics and greenhouse gasses.

More information on LEEF and application procedures is available at <http://www.ct.gov/dep/mowerexchange>.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner of Education