

Governor Carney: Application Period is Open for Student Representative on State Board of Education

Applications for rising 11th or 12th grade student seat are due March 20, 2020

DOVER, Del. – Governor John Carney announced on Thursday the application period for the student seat on the State Board of Education is open through March 20, 2020. The [application](#) can be found on the State Board of Education [website](#).

Governor Carney appointed the first-ever student representative to the state board last year. Dorcas Olatunji, a Charter School of Wilmington student, was appointed to the Board in May 2019. Olatunji's term expires July 1, 2020.

[Click for State Board of Education 2020 Student Board Member Application.](#)

“When we make big decisions that impact schools in our state, it's important Delaware students have a seat at the table,” said Governor Carney. “I was pleased to appoint Dorcas as our first student representative, and I thank her for her willingness to serve. I encourage rising juniors and seniors to consider applying for this opportunity.”

Olatunji was selected from a competitive and diverse pool of applicants representing all three counties in the state as well as traditional, vocational technical, and charter schools.

*“When I was selected as the student representative, I was incredibly excited to take on the role,” said **Dorcas Olatunji, Delaware State Board of Education Student Member.** “In my time, I’ve learned from education and policy leaders that are truly invested in transforming Delaware education. There’s still some ways to go with student engagement, but I am ready to empower the next student representative to build on the foundation I’ve created.”*

One qualified student applicant will be appointed to the Board to serve as a non-voting member. The student must be a Delaware resident and be enrolled in eleventh or twelfth grade at a Delaware public school during the 2020-21 academic year. Applicants who demonstrate a commitment to ensuring quality education for Delaware students will be given priority consideration.

*“The student voice is an important one in helping the Board accomplish our mission of representing the citizens voice in Delaware,” said **Whitney Sweeney, President of the State Board of Education.** “We have learned from our first student board member and value the insight that a student brings to conversations regarding policies and programs impacting students at all levels across our state.”*

The non-voting student seat was approved by the General Assembly in 2018 with the passage of [House Bill 455](#) – legislation sponsored by Representative Stephanie T. Bolden and Senator John Walsh. The Governor annually appoints to the Board an eleventh or twelfth grade student, and a former State Teacher of the Year who also is a current educator. The applications for the non-voting Former Teacher of the Year seat will open later this spring.

The Board’s regular monthly [meetings](#) are open to the public and typically scheduled for the third Thursday evening of the month. The Board rotates its meetings to be held in all three

counties.