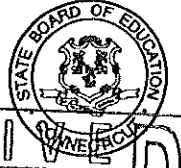
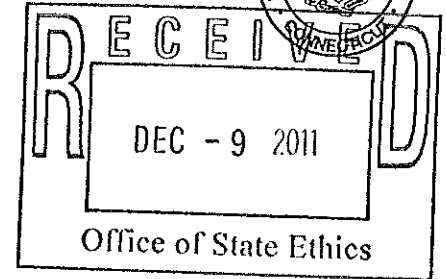




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



December 5, 2011



Barbara Housen, General Counsel
Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106-1660

RE: Application of the State Ethics Code to Potential Conflict of Interest

Dear Attorney Housen:

I am currently serving as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut, and I am writing to ensure that by serving in this position that there are no violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. While I have discussed the matter informally with one of your staff attorneys, I would like to receive a formal opinion from the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board.

Prior to my employment with the State of Connecticut, I was a co-founder of Amistad Academy in New Haven, Connecticut. Additionally, up to and just prior to assuming this position as Commissioner of Education, I served on the Board of Trustees for Achievement First — the charter management organization of which Amistad Academy is the flagship school. Achievement First has opened charter schools in Connecticut and New York. I have never had any financial interest in either Amistad Academy or Achievement First.

Pursuant to the Connecticut Code of Ethics for State Officials, I wish to verify that I do not have a conflict of interest with respect to making decisions in my capacity as Commissioner of Education that either directly or indirectly affect charter schools, including Achievement First schools and Amistad Academy.

I thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stefan Pryor
Commissioner of Education

SP:lla

cc: Kim Barberi, Bureau of Human Resources