

Letter from the Governor

I hope all of you are having a good time getting back into your school-year routines and getting excited for this year's youth and government conference! I am so excited to be working on delivering the best conference possible along with my fellow presiding officers. I am particularly excited to introduce some minor changes to our conference which will help bring the spirit of collaboration and civic engagement to life. As you might recall, as the Governor, it is my responsibility to set the theme for this year's conference. After some reflection as to what I want to prioritize most during our weekend together, I decided on the theme Active in Our Present, Invested in Tomorrow. This phrase tries to encapsulate the mood that I have felt both as our program grows in strength, and we grow as people. As I have moved up through my high school years, I have become more and more invested in our state as an institution and the places and people that make it so great. With this year's theme, I hope to get you more active in your local community and more invested in learning about and creating the place in which you live.

This year, we are also re-introducing a vital piece of our program. For the past four years, our program has strived to model both the legislative and judicial branches of our state government. This year, I am excited to share that we will also be adding an executive branch piece of our program through the Governor's Cabinet. This new and improved Governor's Cabinet has been something I have been very passionate about adding ever since I had the privilege of attending the New York State conference, and especially since I am now a member of the Connecticut state executive branch myself as a member of the State Board of Education. The executive branch serves a vital role in the democratic process through policy development and being the chief officer in their field. This year, I am pleased to announce the following roles as new positions in our program (All positions are directly modeled by real positions in our state government):

Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

-The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management serves as Connecticut's chief financial officer, senior policy director, and primary legislative negotiator. As the head of the executive branch's staff, this role is a major privilege and responsibility. In practice, this will look like sorting bills for their perspective commissioner and advising the governor on vetoing legislation.

Commissioner of Education (SDE)

-The Commissioner of Education is responsible for overseeing all bills that relate to education policy, and delivering a verdict on whether or not they should be vetoed or passed.

Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

-The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection is responsible for overseeing all bills that relate to energy and environmental policy, and delivering a verdict on whether or not they should be vetoed or passed.

Commissioner of Social Services (DSS)

-The Commissioner of Social Services is responsible for overseeing all bills that relate to public health, children and families, housing, consumer protection, and food assistance policy, and delivering a verdict on whether or not they should be vetoed or passed.

Commissioner of Transportation (CTDOT)

-The Commissioner of Transportation is responsible for overseeing all bills that relate to transportation and urban development policy, and delivering a verdict on whether or not they should be vetoed or passed.

Governor's Cabinet Application

Shepard Fisher,
2027 Connecticut State Youth Governor

