



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Wednesday, January 5, 2011**

## **State Board of Education Names Coleman Acting Education Commissioner**

(HARTFORD, CONN.) Deputy Education Commissioner George A. Coleman of Sandy Hook has been named Acting Commissioner of Education, effective January 6, 2011, by vote of the Connecticut State Board of Education. State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan, who completes his term of office at the close of business today, did not seek reappointment. Coleman will serve as the Department of Education's chief executive officer until a new commissioner is appointed.

Mr. Coleman, who has served as Deputy Commissioner, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services, and Chief of the Bureaus of Early Childhood Education and of Curriculum and Instruction, joined the Department in 1987. He began his career as a classroom teacher at St. Mark's School of Learning, Brooklyn, New York, in 1972.

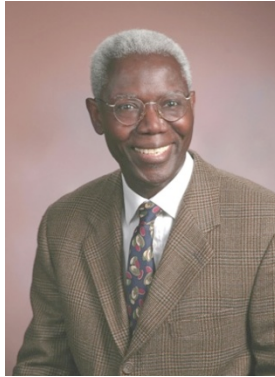
He served as Interim Commissioner of Education from August 2006, to April 2007.

Mr. Coleman has served on many professional and community boards and councils, including the state and local United Way, NAACP, the Connecticut State Birth-to-Three Council, Connecticut Commission on Children, Junior Achievement, and The Hord Foundation, based in Danbury.

"I expect to carry on the work of the State Board of Education with emphasis on school reform and improvement, early childhood education and closing the achievement gap," said Coleman.

Attached is a brief biography.

**GEORGE A. COLEMAN**  
Connecticut State Department of Education



*Biography*

George A. Coleman was named Deputy Commissioner of Education by the State Board of Education on May 2, 2007; after having served as Interim Commissioner of Education from August 14, 2006, through April 13, 2007.

Mr. Coleman, who had previously served as associate commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services since 1998, joined the State Department of Education in 1987 as an education consultant in kindergarten and the primary grades. He served as chief of the Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction and of the Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services before becoming associate commissioner.

Mr. Coleman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history from Tuskegee Institute. He also earned graduate degrees in both early childhood education and curriculum and instruction from Teacher's College at Columbia University. He has taught courses in early childhood education and history at Tufts University, Western Connecticut State University and the University of New Haven.

He has authored a number of publications including, *A Guide to Program Development for Kindergarten, Parts I and II*; *The Teacher's Ongoing Role in Creating a Developmentally Appropriate Early Childhood Program: A Self-Study Process for Teachers of Children Ages 5-8*; *A Guide to Curriculum Development: Health and Safety*; and *The Preschool Difference and Opening the Kindergarten Door*.

Mr. Coleman serves on many professional and community boards and councils, including the state and local United Way, the Connecticut State Birth-to-Three Council, Connecticut Commission on Children and Junior Achievement. He also chairs the Board of Directors of The Hord Foundation, based in Danbury.

Mr. Coleman and his wife, Carrie, reside in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown. They are the parents of one daughter, Olga Coleman Williams, and have four grandsons.