

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 15, 2008

**CONTACT:** David Griffith  
703-740-4824

**Patrick Guida Chosen to Serve on National Panel  
to Focus on No Child Left Behind Act Reforms**

Alexandria, VA – The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is pleased to announce that Patrick Guida, a member of the Rhode Island State Board of Education, has been chosen to serve on the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC), the entity responsible for developing federal policy recommendations and communicating with Congress and federal officials about the education reform priorities of state boards of education.

The Governmental Affairs Committee helps state board members understand, influence, and plan for federal education policies. In its efforts to affect national education policymaking, NASBE works to ensure that it represents the views of its members to the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, as well as to associations representing governors, state legislators, school administrators, principals, local school boards, teachers, and parents.

As a member of the 20-member panel, Guida will meet with other state education leaders, national policymakers, federal lawmakers, and education reform experts during a series of meetings, events and communications over the course of this year to share their state's experiences and perspective, analyze federal education initiatives, promote state board of education priorities, and serve as a state education resource to congressional offices and staff.

“State boards of education have been working to implement the No Child Left Behind Act for six years. The first-hand knowledge of these policymakers about the real world opportunities and challenges of NCLB at the state level are invaluable to Congress as it considers changes to the federal education law this year. The Governmental Affairs Committee allows state board members to work in common purpose to promote federal education policies that will best serve each state and benefit all students,” said Brenda Welburn, NASBE Executive Director.

\*\*\*

NASBE, [www.nasbe.org](http://www.nasbe.org), represents America's state and territorial boards of education. Our principal objectives are to strengthen state leadership in education policymaking; advocate equality of access to educational opportunity; promote excellence in the education of all students; and assure responsible lay governance of education.