

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2009

CONTACT: Douglas Levin
703-684-4000 x1109

**Penny Dastague Chosen to Serve on National Panel
to Focus on No Child Left Behind Act Reforms, Secretary Duncan Priorities**

Alexandria, VA – The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is pleased to announce that **Penny Dastague of the Louisiana State Board of Education**, has been chosen to serve on the 2009 NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC), the entity responsible for developing federal policy recommendations and communicating with Congress and Obama Administration officials about the education improvement priorities of state boards of education.

“State boards of education possess first-hand knowledge about the real world opportunities and challenges of implementing No Child Left Behind at the state level,” said Brenda Welburn, NASBE Executive Director. “Individually and collectively through the work of the 2009 NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee we seek to inform Congress, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and other Obama Administration officials about how to refine federal education policies to best serve each state and benefit all students.”

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 national associations representing governors, state legislators, school administrators, principals, local school boards, teachers, and parents.

As a member of the 18-member committee, Dastague 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 her 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.

NASBE, 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.