



## **NJDOE News**

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### **New Student Representative Joins State Board of Education**

John Blakeslee, a 16-year-old sophomore at Holmdel High School in Monmouth County, attended his first meeting as a State Board of Education Student Representative this morning in Trenton. His year-long tenure began last month.

Blakeslee has served as class president for his sixth-grade, eighth-grade, freshman and sophomore classes. He is currently seeking re-election for his junior year.

"I am happy to welcome John as the State Board of Education's Student Representative," said Dr. Arnold G. Hyndman, the Board President. "His resume at age 16 is quite impressive and we are certain he will bring a unique and important perspective to the State Board."

"We are thrilled when students like John Blakeslee show an interest in their school and the state of public education," said acting Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. "The leadership abilities he's shown in school will certainly help him during his time with the State Board."

When Blakeslee was president of his eighth-grade class, he received the Monmouth County Student Achievement Award. In addition to his interest in student government, Blakeslee is active in his school's theatre group, and he is a varsity letter winner in golf, which is his favorite sport.

The State Board of Education Student Representative is a year-long position. Student Representatives introduce fellow student speakers, participate in Board discussions and lend a student's perspective to State Board meetings.

Blakeslee replaces Raymond Thompson Jr., a senior at High Point Regional High School in Sussex County.

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