



2023-24 Annual Report
CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION
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The Connecticut Association of Schools established the Center for Leadership and Innovation to address the professional learning and related needs of aspiring and practicing school leaders. The work of the Center is guided by an advisory board of active principals and assistant principals.

Based on the annual member survey, and feedback from our elementary, middle-level level, and high school boards, CAS staff worked collaboratively with the CLI Advisory Board to design professional learning opportunities around the topics that were most important to our administrators. We hosted both in-person and virtual events in alignment with the feedback that we received on both the structure and content of member interests and needs.

This year, CAS received a contract from the CSDE to partner with the RESCs on the development of the new CT Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Guidelines, including the creation and facilitation of professional development for PDECs, educators, and administrators. In addition, CAS was actively involved in the development of the CT Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Model Plan. This development team work will continue into 2024-25. In addition, CAS received a coaching contract from the CSDE to support special education leaders as well as Alliance district leaders. There has been a successful revitalization of the coaching work at CAS in 2023-24 which is expected to continue into the coming year.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OFFERINGS: 2023-24

- CAS Leadership Academy - ongoing
- Derby Leadership Academy - ongoing
- Building a Highly Effective Professional Development & Evaluation Committee (PDEC) - August 8 & 9
- The 2023 Legislative Session - What School Leaders Need to Know (In-person) - August 9
- Implementing MTSS for Student Success - September 21
- The 2023 Legislative Session: What School Leaders Need to Know (Virtual) - September 22
- The Ins & Outs of Section 504 - October 3
- Play-based Learning: Meeting Standards & Supporting Executive Function Skills - October 3, November 14, January 16, February 21
- How to Stay Ahead in a World of AI - October 17
- Building a More Welcoming and Inclusive School Using the Welcoming Walkthrough - October 24
- Understanding the Teacher Retirement Board System - October 29
- Restorative Practices 2-Day Training for School Teams - November, February, March, April

- Investigations: What Every School Administrator Needs to Know - December 6, April 2
- Facilitating a Culture of Learning through School-Based Instructional Rounds - February 7
- The Law & Student Cell Phones: A Best Practices Workshop for School Administrators - February 27
- Creating and Leading a Culture of Playful Learning - March 5
- Annual Leadership Conference: Invest...Advance...Elevate - March 14 & 15
- Less Is More: Minimal Facts for Discoverers - March 28
- School Avoidance: Re-engaging Students and Empowering Parents and School Personnel - April 24
- Create a Culture Focused on Learning Using Learning Blocks - May 1
- Understanding and Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) - May 15
- Culturally Competent Education: Navigating Towards Equity - May 15
- Moving Away From Bullying: School Climate, Restorative Practices and the New Legislation - June 3
- Restorative Practices/School Climate Training - June & July
- Four Essential Roles of Leadership - June 17 & 18

OTHER PROGRAMS/INNOVATIONS

Virtual Book Club

The CLI hosted a virtual book club on "Leader Credibility: The Essential Traits of Those Who Engage, Inspire and Transform" in February 2024 and, due to its popularity, again in April.

Linking Leaders PodCAST

The **Linking Leaders** PodCAST explores innovative strategies, shares inspiring stories, and engages in insightful conversations that empower school leaders to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education.

CAS Connections

CAS Connections are informal networks intended to connect school leaders from across the state of CT in role-like groups. The topics for discussion are member generated. CAS Connections are held monthly via Zoom.

- High School Principals
- High/Middle Assistant Principals
- Middle-Level Principals
- Elementary Principals
- Elementary Assistant Principals

On April 24th the CLI Advisory Board engaged in a **CLI Planning Summit** to reflect on 2023-24 and strategically plan professional learning opportunities for 2024-25.