

2025 CAS
ADVOCACY DAY:
PARTICIPANT
TRAINING SESSION

Wednesday,
March 19,
2025



WHAT IS AN ADVOCACY DAY?

National School Leadership Advocacy Conference:

- NAESP & NASSP joint conference in Washington DC
 - State association and principal representatives
 - Advocacy & policy training
 - Meetings with members of Congress
 - [NSLAC 2025 Article from NASSP](#)
 - [CNN This Morning Weekend - CNN/SAT 3/8/25/RONN NOZOE](#)
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WHAT IS THE CAS ADVOCACY DAY?

CAS Advocacy Day Purposes:

- Opportunity for legislators to hear directly from school leaders about issues affecting schools
 - Build awareness and support for CAS 2025 legislative priorities and sound educational legislation
 - Create and strengthen connections with legislators in your home and school legislative districts
 - Build an annual school leader presence at the state capitol
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DATE & LOCATION

Monday, March 24

2nd Floor Atrium

Legislative Office Building

300 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT

SCHEDULE

9:00-9:15: Arrival and Breakfast

9:15-9:30: Welcome/Introductory Remarks

- Dr. Glenn Lungarini, CAS Executive Director
- Amy Yost, CAS President and Principal of Mill Hill School, Fairfield

9:30-10:30: Conversations & Closing

- Opportunity to meet and mingle with legislators
 - Share concerns, stories, priorities, and requests
 - Build connections with local decision-makers
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Simple enough ...

But what is the principals' role in all of this?

MEMBER PRINCIPALS' ROLE

- **Be present** – there is strength in numbers
 - Focus on **policy**, not **politics!**
 - Work with both sides of the aisle
 - Look to find common ground
 - Connect with legislators in your home and school legislative districts
 - Be familiar with the CAS legislative priorities
 - **Come with stories to share!**
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MEMBER PRINCIPALS' ROLE

- Feel free to discuss local issues with your legislators
 - Schedule one-on-one meetings with your local reps if possible
 - Consider inviting legislators to visit your school
 - Don't be afraid to **directly ask for support of our priorities** – that's what legislators are expecting of you
 - **Remember – you are the experts, and you deserve a seat at the table**
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CAS 2025 POLICY AGENDA

- **CAS Mission Statement:** “To provide exemplary programs and services that promote excellence in the education of all students”
- **CAS Purpose** includes “advocacy ... through volunteer efforts of practitioners and thought leaders”
 - *That’s all of you!*
- **Four CAS Legislative Priorities** this session



PRIORITY AREA 1: TITLE 1 & 2 FUNDING

- Title 1 & 2 federal grants support educator professional development
 - Some CAS professional development programming is supported through Title 1 & 2 grant allocations from the state Dept. of Education
 - **We are advocating for:** Maintaining allocation of grant funding directed to CAS to support school leader professional development
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PRIORITY AREA 2: SOCIAL MEDIA PROTECTIONS FOR EDUCATORS ACT

- CT state law classifies public school educators as public figures, not private citizens
 - Higher threshold for defamatory/libelous attacks on educators
 - Some states do not consider educators public figures
 - We are school employees, not elected officials or celebrities
 - **We are advocating for:** Sponsorship and support for the proposed Social Media Protections for Educators Act
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PRIORITY AREA 3: SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

- We all know the struggle to fund special education services
- Recent activity in state legislature to provide funding
- **We are advocating for:**
 - Improving the CT Excess Cost Grant process
 - Increased state funding for special education services



PRIORITY AREA 4: INCLUDING CAS EMPLOYEES IN TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)

- CAS employees do not pay into TRS, years of CAS service do not count toward TRS pensions
 - Limits CAS' ability to recruit and retain a diverse group of high-performing mid-career school administrators
 - **We are advocating for:** TRS eligibility for certain CAS employees
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Q&A
