



THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

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Dr. Glenn Lungarini

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- National Association of Elementary School Principals
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RE: S.B. No. 1524 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Glenn Lungarini. I am the Executive Director of the CT Association of Schools / CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference ("CAS-CIAC"). I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony supporting S.B. 1524's proposed legislative amendments to allow eligible Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) professional staff to participate in the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). This modification is a necessary and logical step in recognizing CAS's essential contributions to Connecticut's educational landscape. CAS-CIAC represents approximately 1,000 public and parochial elementary, middle, and high schools in Connecticut.

For decades, CAS has played a vital role in advancing the quality of education in Connecticut by supporting school administrators, promoting professional development, fostering student-centered leadership programs, and governing interscholastic athletics. CAS is an integral partner to school districts and the State Department of Education, providing leadership, guidance, and coaching to ensure excellence in educational practices. CAS serves more than 170,000 students annually, including the state chapter of national student councils, national student honor societies, debate, and many more. The professional staff members of CAS, many of whom hold advanced administrative certifications (092 licenses or higher) and have dedicated years of service as public school administrators, continue to make significant contributions to the state's education system even after transitioning to CAS employment.

The proposed statutory amendments would:

- Recognize CAS staff members as eligible participants in the TRS, provided they meet established criteria, including possessing an appropriate certification and a transition period of no more than 90 days from prior TRS-eligible employment.
- Offer parity and fairness by aligning CAS with other recognized educational entities already TRS-eligible. Some non-profits specifically designated by statutes such as the University of Connecticut, the Technical Education and Career System, and the Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) have been included in the TRS system.
- Allow for a more diverse range of qualified experts to continue eligibility in TRS while enhancing student learning experiences throughout the state.

*Serving schools
and their leaders*

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Ensuring that a limited number of CAS professional staff have access to the TRS will help Connecticut retain talented educational leaders who provide invaluable support to school districts statewide. Excluding CAS staff from TRS presents an unnecessary barrier that discourages experienced educators from continuing their service in roles that benefit Connecticut's schools and students.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Appropriations Committee to support the proposed statutory amendments to include the Connecticut Association of Schools in the Teachers' Retirement System. I appreciate your time and consideration and welcome any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Glenn Lungarini Ed.D.
Executive Director
CAS-CIAC