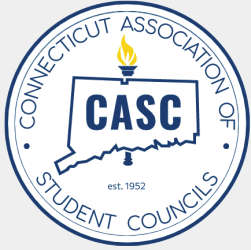


# CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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THE  
**PRESIDENT'S  
 SYMPOSIUM**

★ ★ ★

## Director's Corner

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families in good health. The CASC Executive Board has been working all summer on a number of initiatives that we are excited to share with the association at Symposium on September 25 so stay tuned!

Speaking of Symposium, our first statewide event, **The 6th Annual President's Symposium(HS/MS)**, is quickly approaching on September 25. We are returning this event to a live function and the Old State House in Hartford has agreed to host us. This year's keynote speaker is Connecticut Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas. The keynote will include a speech/presentation with a moderated Q and A. This event is free to all members and open to advisors and all Student Council/Government leadership team members however we ask that you limit your group to no more than 10 student leaders. In addition to announcements about upcoming initiatives and related CASC news we will continue to feature a keynote speaker presentation with a moderated Q and A. You can [REGISTER HERE](#)

Remember between newsletters to check our association website (<https://www.ctstuco.com/>) as well as our instagram feed @ctstuco to keep up with the latest news and opportunities CASC offers.

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of student leadership in Connecticut and remember to stay above the line.

Christopher Tomlin  
CASC Executive Director

### Upcoming State Important Dates::

#### **SEPTEMBER**

#### **September 25:: President's Symposium, LIVE (HS/MS)**

*The President's Symposium serves as a launchpad for upcoming CASC activities and opportunities. This year's Symposium will be returning to a live format all advisors and student council/ government leadership team members are invited to attend. [REGISTER HERE](#)*

## From the Executive Board

### State President

Hey Connecticut!

The CASC board has been working hard to put together a year-long program of events and district conferences, and has begun preliminary planning of this year's CASC Convention!

Executive Director, Mr. Tomlin and I have been working hard to put together this year's President's Symposium featuring a keynote presentation from CT's Secretary of State at the Old State House on September 25, 2024! I look forward to seeing many of you there for the official reveal of this year's projects and the Convention Theme!

Kaltrina Ameti '25  
Woodland Regional High School

### Middle School Liaison

Middle School Advisors,

I hope this message finds you well as we start another exciting school year! I have just sent out a baseline survey to all of the middle school student council advisors. This survey is important for gathering insights on our middle school student councils statewide, and will further our understanding of leadership among our schools. The form is below, please submit it before September 14. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

<https://forms.gle/VgzjhdnmxmBPZEJ1E7>

Neilly Dean Erlandson '30  
Nathan Hale Ray Middle School

## Program Updates

### CASC COMMITTEES

**STUDENTS OF CONNECTICUT!** Are you interested in making an impact in Connecticut but not sure you have the time for a large commitment? Are there certain projects, events or activities that you are passionate about? Join a Committee! Led by the student staff members of the Executive Board, Committees are a great way for students to get involved. All while learning more about CASC and its mission of empowering the student leaders of Connecticut.

Committees meet twice a year in person (June and December) and meet via zoom as necessary.

If you have any students that are interested in learning more about serving on any of these committees please have them complete [this form](#).

THE  
**PRESIDENT'S  
SYMPOSIUM**

★ ★ ★

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:00AM to 1:00 PM,  
Old State House, Hartford  
[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Time & Location**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024. 9AM-12PM Business Meeting, 12PM-1PM explore the Old State House (800 Main St, Hartford, CT 06103) and lunch on your own.

**About Symposium**

CASC Middle School and High School Advisors and Council/Government Leadership teams, you are cordially invited to register and attend this year's President's Symposium.

Kick start your school year by learning about this year's Convention theme, state wide service project, recognition opportunities, upcoming conferences, free resources, project ideas, and more!

**Keynote**

The Executive Board is very excited to announce this year's keynote speaker is Connecticut Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas. The keynote will include a speech/presentation with a moderated Q and A.

**Registration**

This year's Symposium is free to all CASC advisors and Student Council/Government leadership team members. However we ask that you limit your group to no more than 10 student leaders.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## START AND SPARK

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 7:00PM to 7:40 PM,  
Virtual

(Check [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com) for schedule and more details)

*Please join us for our Welcome back virtual advisors meeting.*

*Come for the information, stay for the connections, conversations, and commiserations. This is an opportunity for advisors to come together and share success stories, challenges, resources, and what we can do to support each other to grow. All member advisors are invited to attend these events through emails with the Zoom link sent out on the first of the month from the CASC Executive Director.*

## 3rd MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAY

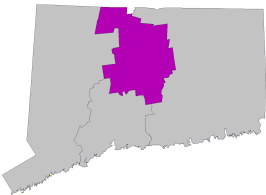
December 2024

Capitol Building, Hartford

(Check [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com) for schedule and more details)

Once again CASC is partnering with the CGA to offer our 3rd annual Mock Legislative Session Day. If you are not familiar with this event, it is an empowering day of students from across Connecticut working with CGA staff and legislatures to raise issues and debate solutions to these relevant topics.

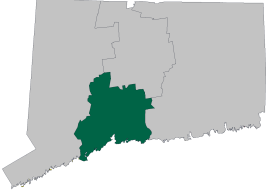
## Districts in Action



### Northern District - CIBA, East Hartford

*Thierry Ofori '24, Vice President;  
Buckle Buck '27, District Coordinator;  
Rachel Buck, District Advisor*

**DISTRICT UPDATE::** In September, CIBA's SAB and Staff welcomed the incoming members of the class of 2028 and new members of the class of 2027 at our New Student Orientation. New students were introduced to CIBA's core values and academic culture and provided with the tools and insights needed for a successful start to their high school journey. The orientation familiarized new students with the expectations of our school and also fostered a sense of community and support as they embark on this new chapter. We're excited to see how these new students will contribute to the spirit of CIBA!



## Southern District - WCA, Waterbury

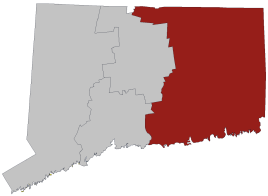
*Randy Ramdin '25, Vice President;  
Ryan Cogovan '25, District Coordinator;  
John O'Toole, District Advisor*

**DISTRICT UPDATE::** At Waterbury Career Academy (WCA), we believe that citizenship is about actively shaping the community around you. Our upcoming Student Council elections provide students with a real-world experience in democracy, where they can exercise their voting rights, evaluate candidates, and engage in leadership decisions that impact our school. This process not only helps elect student representatives but also instills the values of informed decision-making, responsibility, and community involvement.

Participating in these elections is a vital part of students' growth as future citizens. By voting and engaging in the electoral process, students are practicing the skills and values essential for active citizenship, ensuring they are prepared to contribute positively to society.

We encourage all students of the Southern District to take part in shaping their school's future through an election process, recognizing that every vote counts in their school's democratic process.

Let's go Southern District and see you at the Symposium!



## Eastern District - NFA, Norwich

*Elya Anor '25, Vice President;  
Kinnick Campbell '26, District Coordinator;  
Lorraine Dooley, Advisor*

**DISTRICT UPDATE::** Students are excited to return to leadership positions this fall and the officers are busy planning events for the year. Elections will be held soon and spirit weeks, a blood drive and a leadership conference are being organized. Student leaders played an important role in the establishment of the newly implemented community meeting program at NFA.

## CTRISES:: Project Ideas

Remember to be focusing on your **CT**(citizenship), **R**(recognition), **I**(inspiration), **S**(service), **E**(engagement), **S**(spirit). Looking for a new project to run this month in your student council/government? Think about incorporating some of these suggestions into your calendar.

### September

#### **CITIZENSHIP**

##### **Elections**

*Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School*  
Organize the election for the new freshman students. Use this as a way to prepare for elections throughout the year. Try out new methods of voting.

#### **RECOGNITION**

##### **Welcome Back activities**

*You may also want to use this opportunity to plan any first day of school activities to welcome back the students, faculty and staff.*

#### **INSPIRATION**

##### **First Meeting**

*Begin with an agenda and consider adding these items::*

- *Consider beginning with ice breakers, it has been a long summer.*
- *Remind everyone of their roles and responsibilities.*
- *If you don't meet over the summer the first meeting is also a great opportunity to set goals for your council.*
- *While setting SMART goals and establishing your calendar dont forget to discuss if you need to revisit your Constitution or by-laws.*
- *Set your calendar for the year, be sure to include meetings and your big projects.*
- *Discuss committees, which ones should you have, how should they be structured.*

##### **Leadership Opportunities**

*A number of conferences have switched to online*

*formats. It is never too early or too late to start thinking about leadership. Consider setting aside one meeting a month for leadership training. Determine a list of skill sets that your council needs to work on and make a checklist to track student growth. Are there any conferences will you want to attend?*

#### **SERVICE**

##### **Beautify Your School's Campus**

*A free and fun way to help students ease their way back into the swing of school this August is to organize a campus beautification project. Gather volunteers to pick up trash or clean up weeds/debris around your school so it is ready to go when the first day rolls around! Consider other ways to help like contacting the administration to paint murals, helping teachers move/set up classrooms, or creating encouraging school-pride banners to hang up.*

#### **ENGAGEMENT**

##### **Kindness Campaign**

*Start the year right with a kindness campaign. Start school culture the right way by having students and teachers perform anonymous acts of kindness every day for a week.*

#### **SPIRIT**

##### **Back to School Pep Rally**

*Why wait until October? Begin the school year with a pep rally once all sports teams have been selected. Or make it an academic pep rally and introduce all of the AP students.*

# October

## **CITIZENSHIP**

### **Get out the Vote activities**

*Inspiring young leaders to participate in the democratic system of our country is at the very heart of why Student Councils were first founded in the 1800's. Contact your local registrars to try and hold a voter registration day for your seniors. Pass out information about local ballot questions, candidates and the major issues. (The important part is to be unbiased in all of your materials.)*

## **RECOGNITION**

### **Custodian Recognition**

*October 2 is National Custodian Day, show your appreciation to the custodians who clean the school through either food, baskets, or student made cards of appreciation. Encourage students to take ownership of the cleanliness of their school.*

## **INSPIRATION**

### **Community leader guest speaker**

*October is a great month to bring in a speaker to keep your SCG's excitement up.*

## **SERVICE**

### **Trick or Treat for Canned Goods**

*Submitted by:: Bolton High School  
Highland Park market donated 500 paper bags, StuCo members deliver bags with a note saying they will pick up the weekend of Halloween. Students then pick up bags, we go through them*

*to remove expired items, then deliver to local food shelters.*

## **Leaf Raking**

*Submitted by:: Bolton High School  
Student Council rakes leaves, does yard work for those in the town who need the service.*

## **Pink October**

*Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School  
October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Consider running fundraising charitable projects. They can be as simple as selling pink ribbons, or more complex school wide pink spirit days. Try reading facts and figures at the morning announcements every Wednesday. You may want to work with your sports teams and advertise their 'Pink' games or cosponsor "Pink Outs"*

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### **National Bullying Prevention Month**

*October is World Bullying Prevention Month! During this month students, schools, and communities all over the world go BLUE together against bullying.*

## **SPIRIT**

### **Homecoming Dance**

*Many high schools host their Homecoming Dance and Spirit Dress Up days this month*

*\*\*We are always looking for new and exciting projects or events to highlight, if your council has a project that you would like to see highlighted in a newsletter please submit it [here](#).*



## Tips and Tools

### Principles of a Successful Student Council/Government.

By Christopher Tomlin, WRHS

In getting ready for this school year I found myself once again turning to Harry McKown's 1944 book, *The Student Council* for inspiration. I bought my copy off of ebay in 2009 at about my 5 year anniversary of being an advisor. When I first got it I read it cover to cover, and showed it to everyone who would listen. Now I turn to it when I'm stressed or looking for motivation.

This year I found myself rereading Chapter 3. I was inspired by how much of what was true in the 1940's still applies to today. As you read through the list of his 26 principles, think about your own SC/G. Are you there? Is it something you and your leadership team need to work on?

**1. The School Must Feel a Continuous Need for the Council.** – This one goes without saying.

**2. The Entire School Should Be Represented in the Council.** – We have all struggled with this one from time to time. How do you build a culture where individuals from every group can work together and find a home.

**3. The Faculty Should Be Fairly Represented.** – Do you have a voice in your SC/G meetings? Do you stand and report? Do you answer questions while in the meeting?

**4. The Average Student Should Feel Their Representation.** – Does the student body have a say in your SC/G beyond elections? What does that look like?

**5. The Average Student Should Feel Their Own Responsibility .** – This is the question of our time. How do you get the average student in your school to care?

**6. In General There Should Be No Restriction on SC/G Membership.** – How much should grades matter when someone wants to join? Should the SC/G be an extension of an honor society? Should the Administration be able to "veto" students from joining? What about teachers?

**7. Each Member of the SC/G Should Assume Some Definite Responsibility.** – This line changed my life as an advisor. Every member of our SC/G has a specific title and responsibility, we long ago eliminated the idea of "I'm just a member" and yes our program can grind to a halt if one member does not do their job.

**8. Each Committee or Subgroup Should Be Held Strictly Accountable for Its Particular Responsibility.** – This comes with culture. Does your SC/G see each committee as an integral part of its program or does it see some committees as expendable? If there is a traditional project coming up and the committee drops the ball, is there accountability or do members shrug their shoulders and say "next year."

**9. The Council Should Be Neither Too Large Nor Too Small.** – I am the first to tell my members I don't care about numbers. We have had successful years with both large memberships and small memberships. It is the dedication and culture of the group that matters. If you have too many members and not a culture of accountability then you get a small group dominating it with members becoming "sleepers." (They show up and sleep in the corner) Likewise too small of a group and your SC/G will quickly burn itself out planning programs.

**10. The Duties and Responsibilities of the SC/G Should Be Specifically Defined.** – Your why. Why does your SC/G exist? What does it have control over?

**11. The Principal Should Retain Veto Power.**

**12. The SC/G Should Not Be Considered a Troubleshooting Body.** – Oftentimes we are asked by the administration our opinions and to help out with school events and activities. These are important roles! But we must be diligent that this doesn't become the only activity of the SC/G.

**13. The SC/G Should Not Be Considered a Disciplinary Body.**

**14. The Cooperative Aspects of Participation Should Be Continually Emphasized.**

**15. The SC/G Should Not Attempt to Carry on All the Activities Itself.** – Occasionally, a SC/G assumes that it, and it alone, should be responsible for initiating, organizing, promoting, and handling all the activities in the school. This is a sure way to lose your purpose. There are so many amazing organizations that can assemble students that focus in areas far better than your SC/G could ever imagine.

**16. The SC/G's Financial Policy Should Be Well Organized and Closely Supervised.**

**17. The Machinery of the Plan Should Be Simple.** – Simply put, don't let your SC/G's structure get in the way of your SC/G's program.

**18. SC/G's Meetings Should Be Held Regularly and on School Time.** – Scheduling regular meetings is essential to building a group culture. It is just as important to schedule meetings when your members can attend.

**19. SC/G Meetings Should Be Open to All Who Care to Attend.** – This may be the hardest on the list so far. At my school, all of our meetings are open to the public to attend but not talk at.

**20. The Necessary Facilities and Equipment Should Be Provided.** – We wouldn't want to teach in a room

that didn't have supplies in it, teams wouldn't be able to practice without supplies.

**21. Continual Study and Adaptation Should Be Made.**

– Change is essential! What worked with last year's group might not work with this year's group. Each year bring new ideas to the table, talk to your group about what they liked about last year and what they didn't like. Then do something about it.

**22. The Reasons for Success and Failure Should Be Analyzed.** – Success has a way of glossing over all of the bumps that went into it. Failure has a way of over emphasizing them. Always look for ways to improve in your successes, and areas of strength in your failures.

**23. No Other Organization Should Be Allowed to Usurp the SC/G's Rightful Place in the School.** – There is no other organization like SC/G, likewise there is no other organization like Journalism, DECA, FBLA, NHS, NJHS, etc. Each has its role to play, each has its purpose. Work to make sure that everyone's voice is at the table.

**24. The Local SC/G Should Affiliate with Council Associations.** – Shameless plug!

**25. Too Much Should Not Be Expected of the SC/G.** – Know your school community, and know your members. You as the advisor are best equipped to know how much they can handle and how far they should go before they are burnt out.

**26. The SC/G Should Give Continuous Publicity to Its Ideals, Activities And Sometimes Problems.** – Advertise, Advertise and Advertise! There is no "silver bullet" to advertising. So cover all of your bases. The student body and faculty/staff must know what you are doing and what you have accomplished.

## Upcoming Events

Be sure to check the CASC Website ([CTStuco.com](http://CTStuco.com)) for a full calendar of our program and more information!

### SEPTEMBER

#### September 25:: President's Symposium, LIVE (HS/MS)

The President's Symposium serves as a launchpad for upcoming CASC activities and opportunities. This year's Symposium will be returning to a live format all advisors and student council/ government leadership team members are invited to attend. [REGISTER HERE](#)

### OCTOBER

#### October TBD:: Student Workshop Presenter Training (HS)

CASC is proud to provide this new certified training program for student presenters.

#### October 2:: Start and Spark (HS/MS)

Welcome back virtual advisors meeting., VIRTUAL Meeting 7:00-7:40

### NOVEMBER

#### November 12 - Start and Spark (HS/MS)

Dances and Spirit, VIRTUAL Meeting 7:00-7:40

#### November 13 -17:: CASC District Conference, Virtual (HS/MS)

Each of Connecticut's 4 districts holds its own conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

### DECEMBER

#### December 1-3:: NA4SA (NAWD) Annual National Conference on Student Activities (HS/MS)

Check [www.nawd.com](http://www.nawd.com) for more details as we get closer to this event.

#### December TBD:: Mock Legislative Session Day (HS)

Mock Legislative Session Day is an opportunity for student council/government members from across Connecticut to work with the Connecticut General Assembly staff and legislators to learn how a bill becomes a law. Students will experience the committee and public hearing process, bill analysis, fiscal analysis, and the process of putting a bills intentions into legal language, in preparation for Mock Session where students will debate their mock legislation on the House Floor.

This is an incredible educational experience giving student council/government members the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the legislative process in a hands-on way.