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- New England League of Middle Schools
- National Federation of State High School Associations

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# THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

*The Connecticut Association of Schools provides exemplary programs and services that promote excellence in the education of all children.*

## Testimony

### House Bill No. 5489 An Act Concerning High School Graduation Requirements

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) represents over 1100 elementary and secondary schools in Connecticut in advocating for the best interests of schools, their students, faculty and administrators. CAS supports a wide range of activities from academics to athletics, as well as providing professional development for school leaders.

The Connecticut Association of Schools has long advocated for the reform of secondary education. Member school principals and staff members have served on several state-wide work groups that produced recommendations for improving schools and raising standards for student achievement. In the last two years CAS joined in the work to develop the Connecticut Plan for Secondary School Reform. Part of that plan is the revision of Connecticut High School graduation requirements as stipulated in House Bill No. 5489. Connecticut needs to increase graduation requirements, support students in meeting high standards, provide for continued professional development for educators, and reform secondary education to meet the challenges ahead in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

By passing House Bill No. 5489 and by applying for the federal stimulus money, the State of Connecticut actively demonstrates the urgency and priority the State has to ensure that Connecticut students are fully prepared for the demands of postsecondary education and the work place.

*Serving schools  
and principals*