



The Connecticut Association of Schools

Testimony of

The Connecticut Association of Schools

Before the Legislature's Program Review & Investigations Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Karissa L. Niehoff

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AFFILIATED WITH:

- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- National Middle School Association
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- New England League of Middle Schools
- National Federation of State High School Associations

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and principals*

Re: SB 108 AAC The Creation Of An Educator Professional Standards Board Task Force.

Good Afternoon. My name is Karissa Niehoff. I am the Executive Director of The Connecticut Association of Schools ("CAS"). CAS is a non-profit association that serves more than 900 member schools- public, parochial, charter and magnet schools serving Pre-K through grade 12. CAS is actively involved with approximately 1200 principals and assistant principals across the state.

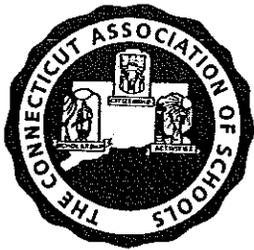
CAS respectfully requests that SB 108 be amended to include a CAS representative on the proposed task force.

CAS is the strongest professional development resource for school leaders in Connecticut. CAS works constantly, through a host of activities and programs, to provide school leaders with the resources and support that they require. CAS has two major professional "thrusts:"

- On the academic side, it provides professional development for principals, assistant principals and school leader aspirants involved in principal certification programs.
- On the co-curricular side, CAS includes the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference ("CIAC") which governs all interscholastic athletics and student activity programs such as student councils, National Honor Societies, fine art programs and forensics (speech and debate). CAS is the only association with such intimate involvement in all programs that have the potential to engage students in their comprehensive school experience

Just a few examples of CAS work are:

- **Executive Coaching Program-** Retired principals are matched with principals in struggling schools as mentors. The relationship spans multiple years and includes professional development workshops, regular meetings and guidance on-site in schools, and intense analysis of performance data which is translated into professional development for faculty in those schools. The data analysis work is based on the CALI process which has valid, reliable data highlighting its impact on student performance.
- **UCAPP Internship-** CAS oversees and implements the curriculum and field experiences for administrative aspirants in UCONN's Administrative Certification (092) program. CAS staff members teach courses and guide cohorts of students through their internship experiences over the course of two years.



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- **CAS Principals' Center-** Active school leaders volunteer their time to serve on a multitude of committees that create professional development resources and experiences to meet the needs of current principals. Communication is constant; workshops are constant. Data conferences, the Principal Leadership Series, the Teacher Evaluation Series, Common Core Standards workshops, NEASC Accreditation training, Student Success Plans forums, School Climate resources and technology workshops are just a few of the supports offered for school leaders in Connecticut.

Additionally, CAS is actively involved in the ESEA Waiver process, the Early Childhood Standards work, the PEAC group which is developing evaluation guidelines and models. CAS stands ready to serve on the SB 108 task force and has the expertise and resources to make a meaningful contribution.

CAS should certainly be included on such a Professional Standards Board, as it is the most respected and influential association regarding the work and professional development needs of school leaders.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.

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