



2024-2025 Annual Report
ELEMENTARY LEVEL BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Dr. Alicia Bowman, CAS Associate Executive Director
Tiffany Caouette, Assistant Executive Director

Elementary Level Board Meetings

The Elementary Level Board of Control, chaired by Robert Garry, principal of Hatton Elementary School in Southington, met virtually three times this year for discussion of topics of interest and concern to members, including: how the legislation around Kindergarten start date and play-based learning was being implemented in districts; social-emotional learning needs and the impact of restorative practices; and Kindergarten start date legislation. The social emotional learning work and Kindergarten start date legislation, especially waiver language, became a focal point of elementary meetings throughout the year. NAESP Zone 1 Director Mike Litke, NAESP Federal Relations Coordinator Garrett Dukette, and NAESP State Representative Scott Nozik also provided the Board with updates at each meeting during the year.

Early Childhood Committee

The committee was composed of representatives from CAS, the Office of Early Childhood, the State Department of Education, and the RESC Alliance as well as administrators in the field. The committee met two times during the year to discuss Kindergarten start date implications across the state and to identify topics to support the monthly Early Learning Leadership Series.

Professional Learning Opportunities

This year, CAS made targeted efforts to diversify professional learning to meet the needs of our audience. One significant focus for professional learning was instructional strategies and practices. Workshops like "Evaluating Teachers during Play-based Learning - Look-fors and Alignment with Rubrics" focused on elementary-specific needs while offerings such as "Restorative Practices," "Hiring for Equity," and "School Climate and Culture" addressed key priorities including fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments, meeting the needs of diverse student populations, and promoting social-emotional well-being.

Elementary Celebration of the Arts

Over 110 elementary schools across Connecticut participated in the Elementary Celebration of the Arts which was held in February and honored more than 230 students for their achievements in the visual and performing arts. The celebration was emceed by CAS Assistant Executive Director, Tiffany Caouette, and included remarks from 2025 Kid Governor Keudy Martinez and a presentation from Taikoza, teaching artists who were secured through Arts for Learning, CT.

NAESP and NASSP National Leadership Conference and Capitol Hill Day

The joint NAESP-NASSP National School Leaders Advocacy Conference was held in Washington, DC, in March 2025. An advocacy team of principals from Connecticut attended meetings with Congressional leaders and their staffers. The Connecticut delegation included seven school leaders and two CAS staff members.

Capitol Connections: A Networking Event for School Leaders and Lawmakers

Capitol Connections created a vital space for Connecticut school leaders and legislators to discuss the urgent challenges facing K-12 education. This event promoted meaningful engagement among policymakers, CAS staff, and principals, ensuring that the voices of those leading our schools are heard. We are looking forward to building on this effort in 2025-2026.

Professional Learning Opportunities

The Elementary Board of Control regularly engaged in discussions about professional development interests and needs, using member feedback and timely topics to drive our decisions. Details on the professional development offerings are included in the [Center for Leadership and Innovation Annual Report](#).

Student Activities

The annual Elementary Student Leadership Conferences were held in January 2025, welcoming over 800 students to four college campuses across the state. For more details, see the [CT Student Activities Conference Annual Report](#).

2024-2025 Elementary Level Awards

The Connecticut Association of Schools was excited to present the following awards and recognitions to elementary school members:

- 2025 Elementary School of the Year: Somers Elementary School, Melissa Mucci, Principal
- 2025 Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year: Laura Dixon, John Barry Elementary School, Meriden
- 2025 Elementary Principal of the Year: Bryan Kerachsky, Skinner Road School, Vernon