



2025-2026 Annual Report
MIDDLE LEVEL BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Dr. Alicia Bowman, CAS Associate Executive Director
Tiffany Caouette, Assistant Executive Director

Middle Level Board Meetings

The Middle-Level Board of Control, led by Tim Salem, principal of Scotts Ridge Middle School, met virtually multiple times this year to discuss topics of interest and concern to middle level leaders. The Board also provided consultation to CAS leadership on student programming and recognition. Members continued to offer input and feedback to the Center for Leadership and Innovation at the CLI Summit in April.

NAESP and NASSP Advocacy and Leadership Engagement

This year, NAESP and NASSP did not hold a joint national conference. NASSP adjusted its schedule, holding Capitol Hill Day in November. NAESP held its Capitol Hill Day in March and will host its National Leadership Conference in July.

Connecticut school leaders continued to engage in federal advocacy efforts through these opportunities, meeting with Congressional leaders and staff to elevate key issues impacting schools.

Professional Learning Opportunities

The Middle Level Board of Control continued to provide input on professional learning priorities, using member feedback and survey data to guide planning. Board members also participated in the Center for Leadership and Innovation Planning Summit in April, contributing to the development of a strategic plan for the upcoming year.

Middle level-specific offerings for 2025–2026 included:

- Middle Level Unconference
- Middle Level Leadership Exchange: Strengthening Tier 1 Instruction for High-Performing Students

Additional details are included in the Center for Leadership and Innovation [Annual Report](#).

Student Activities

The Middle Level Leadership Conference was held at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, with almost 700 students, advisors, and administrators in attendance. Participants engaged in leadership training focused on antibullying, diversity awareness, and community service initiatives.

Additional details are included in the CT Student Activities Conference [Annual Report](#).

2025–2026 Middle Level Awards

The Connecticut Association of Schools recognized the following middle level leaders:

- Middle School Principal of the Year: Christopher Palmieri of DePaolo Middle School in Southington
- Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year: Mark Summa, Avon Middle School
- Middle School of the Year: Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School, New London