October 1, 2012

Dear Alliance District Administrator,

In the spring of 2011, we asked CAS to develop a year-long leadership training program for school leaders - principals and assistant principals - in the 18 partner districts. We asked that it be rigorous, high level training with month-to-month differentiated assignments and opportunities for hands-on experiences. We further asked that there be a great deal of dialogue between and among the participants, presenters, and the CSDE and CAS staff members. CAS did just that organizing and implementing a highly successful Principals' Leadership Series.

With CAS, we have further refined the eight day training series and will repeat it for school leaders in the 30 Alliance Districts. The foundation for the series remains the McREL research document, Simply Better - Doing What Matters Most To Change The Odds For Student Success, along with the practical application strategies captured in Teach Like a Champion by Doug Lemov. The format has been designed such that there will be a presenter for the morning session each day covering the key elements discussed in the McREL document with facilitated discussions in the afternoon about the application of the morning lessons to each participant's school. Relating the presentations and discussions to the current research on school and district improvement and highlighting the alignment to their current Alliance District improvement plans will be critical.

CAS Executive Coaches will serve as facilitators for each of the cohorts of 12 to 14 principals/assistant principals with the CAS coach remaining with the same cohort throughout the training sessions. To the extent possible, CAS coaches and principals/assistant principals will be grouped by school level (ES, MS, HS). It is expected that there will be 60 school leaders participating.

The schedule is as follows:

**November 27th & 28th**
Introduction and Overview of Simply Better  
Leadership in an Era of Stress and Transition  
Bryan Goodwin, McREL  
Mike Wasta, CSDE

**December 11**
Guaranteeing Challenging, Engaging, and Intentional Instruction  
Anthony Rigazio-Digilio, CCSU

**January 15**
Ensuring Curricular Pathways to Success  
Diane Ullman, CSDE

**February 12**
Providing Whole Child Supports  
Harlem Children’s Zone Staff
March 12
*Creating High Performance School Cultures*  
Bob McCain, CREC

April 9
*Developing High-Reliability District Systems*  
Eileen Howley, LEARN

May 14
*Leadership Project Presentations and Wrap-UP*  
CAS & CSDE Staff

The first two days (including overnight) of the leadership program will be held at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury; the remaining sessions will be held at CAS, in Cheshire. School leaders selected for participation MUST be willing and able to attend all sessions—there are no stand-alone sessions. To do this, the school leaders will need your support, encouragement and permission.

**We ask that you respond to Erin Guarino at CAS by fax (203) 250-1345 or email (eguarino@casciac.org) with the attached registration form by November 1st that must be signed by you and the principal(s) that you have selected to participate.**

Sincerely,

Lol Fearon, Chief  
Bureau of Accountability & Improvement