NASSP has long been known as an organization that connects school leaders across the United States. Make that “around the globe.” An NASSP delegation of school leaders spent their July conducting a series of Great Leaders Summits in China. The summits are a program of the NASSP Chinese Affairs Center (CAC), which launched earlier this year at the Ignite ‘15 conference in San Diego.

The standards-based summits introduced the CAC as a provider of elite professional development for school leaders in China. A team of American principals presented professional development programs to over 2,000 Chinese school leaders from July 12–26 in five cities: Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Xi’an, and Beijing. In each city NASSP President Michael Allison was a featured guest of the Chinese provincial or city government. He addressed each local delegation and discussed NASSP’s role in promoting principal development, school improvement, and student voice. The team also visited Chinese schools in each city to form “sister school” relationships and paved the way for other American schools to form similar partnerships. The program was sponsored by the Ivy Elite Education Association (IEEA), China’s premier provider of professional development for principals.

“Our call to maximize the potential of all students to address future challenges requires a global education,” said NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartolletti. “That global education begins with the leaders, who must reach outside of their own schools and to the other side of the globe to create opportunities for students to expand their worldview. NASSP is delighted to work with IEEA to provide this opportunity to American and Chinese school leaders.” The NASSP delegation and its Chinese counterparts will share more details when they present on their Great Leaders Summit experiences at NASSP’s Ignite ‘16 Conference in February in Orlando, FL. NL.

Is This the End for No Child Left Behind?

Principals have been waiting more than seven years for Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), currently known as No Child Left Behind, and it looks like the finish line may finally be in sight.

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passed their respective reauthorization bills in July, which means President Obama could sign a new law as early as this fall. Before that can happen, though, education committee leaders from both chambers will meet in a conference committee to work out differences in the two proposals and present a final conference report for approval by Congress.

Principals will be pleased that both proposals aim to provide more flexibility to states and districts and end the punitive provisions in NCLB. They would eliminate adequate yearly progress (AYP) and the requirement for 100 percent proficiency; continue to require disaggregated subgroup data; remove the unworkable school turnaround models under the School Improvement Grants program and Race to the Top; and clarify the term “school leader” as the principal of an elementary, middle level, or high school.

Unfortunately, the similarities between the two bills end there as Congress has had a boisterous debate about the federal role in education, and the House and Senate have taken very different approaches to addressing this issue.

The House first began its debate on the Student Success Act (H.R. 5) in February, but after two days of votes on a slew of amendments it was pulled from the floor due to a lack of votes.

October is National Principals Month—have you started planning your celebrations? Use our template letter to invite your members of Congress to shadow you for a day or start posting to social media using #ThankAPrincipal. For details and more ideas to celebrate, visit www.principalsmonth.org.

At a Glance

Attendance Awareness Month

Every September is Attendance Awareness Month, hosted by AttendanceWorks. Their recent Absences Add Up report proved that student attendance matters for academic performance. The association between poor attendance and lower National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) scores is robust and holds for every state regardless of size, region, or composition of the student population. For example, as shown in the chart below, eighth grade absentee students scored an average 18 points lower on the math assessment. Visit www.attendanceworks.org to get your school involved promoting Attendance Awareness Month.

NAEP scores for reading and math, grade 8, by days absent from school in the prior month: 2013


Page 3 »
The Public Voice on Public Schools

By JoAnn Bartoletti

NASSP Publications Sport a New Look

School leaders often use summer as the time to work with their internal leadership team to rethink and refresh longstanding programs and assets, and that’s exactly what we did at NASSP. Over the summer, we gave our award-winning flagship magazine Principal Leadership a makeover.

With a new look and rejuvenated editorial focus, Principal Leadership will continue to offer pragmatic, hands-on strategies and solutions for school improvement in a dynamic educational environment. Readers will notice new columns and a more modern look, with a combination of in-depth features and instructive utility segments to put an article’s focus into practice.

Nine issues per year will be mailed to individual and institutional members between September and June each year, with archived issues available online to members.

NASSP members are invited to contribute a success story or lesson learned to Principal Leadership. Email plmag@nassp.org with an article idea or to get submission criteria.

In addition, the premier publication of NASSP’s student programs—the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National Association of Student Councils—also got a top-to-bottom transformation. That magazine, formerly known as Leadership for Student Activities, has been renamed Advisor to acknowledge and reflect the work of its readers.

Its redesigned format includes new columns in a bright, easily skinned layout with content prepared to address the needs of busy student program advisers. Archived issues will be available online to affiliated schools.

We encourage you and your student programs advisers to look out for these exciting and refreshed publications, arriving this month.
New Rural Legislation Would Level the Playing Field

Right before Congress adjourned for August recess, a flurry of legislation was introduced. One bill strongly supported by NASSP was the Restructuring Underutilized Resources for Advancing Learning (RURAL) Act, which was introduced by Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA) on July 29.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly one-quarter of all public school students attend schools in rural areas, and close to one-quarter of these students are living in poverty. The RURAL Act (H.R. 3369) is a four-tiered approach that seeks to improve educational opportunities for students in rural and high poverty communities. Most notably, this legislation would provide a $1,000 tax credit to principals, assistant principals, superintendents, or other administrators working in rural schools. When asked about the potential implications of the principal tax credit, Daisy Dyer Duerr, a 2014 NASSP Digital Principal, said: “Because funding formulas are based on a per student model, American rural schools are often forced to offer pay scales that are thousands of dollars less than suburban and urban schools. This bill would dramatically increase the recruitment and retention of quality school leaders in rural schools.” Additionally, the RURAL Act would provide a tax credit to teachers working in rural schools or schools where at least 75 percent of the students receive free or reduced price lunch; establish an Office of Rural Education Policy within the Department of Education; expand digital learning opportunities in rural areas through a competitive grant program; and increase expanded learning time in rural areas.

Recruiting and retaining strong leaders to work in rural schools is a priority for NASSP, and we look forward to working with Rep. Loebsack to ensure the bill is enacted. NASSP members are encouraged to visit the Principal’s Legislative Action Center at nassp.org/plac to ask their members of Congress to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation. NL

NHS and NJHS are Facing Forward with New Programs and Services

In-depth details about new programs and services being made available to National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) chapters this academic year will be revealed during a special launch event on October 1. New initiatives will support member students, their parents, and chapter advisers.

NASSP, the country’s largest student recognition organization, NHS and NJHS are facing forward with new programs designed to improve school leadership. S. 1177 also included the text of the Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act, which NASSP helped write as a member of Advocates for Literacy. The bill also includes a new authorization for the National Domestic Violence Technology Expands Children’s Horizons (I-TECH) program to support schoolwide and district-wide approaches for using technology to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning.

S. 1177 also includes some good provisions concerning early education in middle level and high schools, although we would like to see stronger language in these areas.

NASSP, in collaboration with AFSA and NAESP, sent a letter to congressional leaders outlining our priorities for the final conference report and will be conducting joint advocacy efforts in the coming months of September and October. We are also encouraging all of our members to visit the Principal’s Legislative Action Center to tell their state’s legislators what principals need in a reauthorized ESEA law.

While the finish line is in sight, we have to keep the pressure on Congress and President Obama to finish this work before the end of the 114th Congress. NL

2016 National Principal of the Year Finalists Announced

Fast forward five months later, and with new more controversial and conservative amendments ruled in order, the bill passed in a 218-213 vote on July 8. While there were some good provisions in S. 1177, the final conference report did not include the text of the Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act, which NASSP helped write as a member of Advocates for Literacy. The bill also includes a new authorization for the National Domestic Violence Technology Expands Children’s Horizons (I-TECH) program to support schoolwide and district-wide approaches for using technology to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning. S. 1177 also includes some good provisions concerning early education in middle level and high schools, although we would like to see stronger language in these areas.

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No Child Left Behind continued from page 1
**Calendar of Events**

**Upcoming national and state association events**

**SEPTEMBER**
- 2–3 CLAS (AL) New Principals Institute (Prattville, AL)
- 14–15 LAP (LA) LAP 64th Annual Conference (Baton Rouge, LA)
- 24 ASA (AZ) Principals Law Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
- 27–28 Region 7 Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

**OCTOBER**
- 4–6 MASSP (MO) MASSP/MECTA Fall Conference (Columbia, MO)
- 6 NASA (NV) NASA Annual Law Conference (Sparks, NV)
- 8 UIASSP (UT) Secretary Conference (Lehi, UT)
- 13 NASA (NV) NASA Annual Law Conference (Las Vegas, NV)
- 22 MASSP (MD) Assistant Principals Conference (Linthicum, MD)
- 22–23 NiPSA FEA/NIPSAN/AIASCD Fall Conference (Long Branch, NJ)
- 18–20 IPA (IL) Education Leaders Fall Conference (Peoria, IL)
- 21 ASA (AZ) Principals Leadership Symposium (Phoenix, AZ)
- 22 UIASSP (UT) Assistant Principal Conference (Lehi, UT)
- 18–29 AASSP (AK) 49th Annual Alaska Principals Conference (Anchorage, AK)
- 25–27 COSA (OR) Annual Oregon Principals Conference (Bend, OR)
- 18–19 SAANYS (NY) SAANYS Annual Conference (Rochester, NY)
- 25–26 AWSP (WA) Washington Educators Conference (Seattle, WA)
- 28 OAASSP (OK) Fall Conference (Oklahoma City, OK)
- 30 PAESSP (PA) PAESSP Annual Conference (State College, PA)

**NOVEMBER**
- 1 PAESSP (PA) PAESSP Annual Conference (State College, PA)
- 1–2 TASSP (TX) Fundamental Five Conference on Student Success (Austin, TX)
- 1–2 GASSP (GA) Fall Conference (Savannah, GA)
- 2 LAP (LA) 32nd Assistant Principals Conference (Baton Rouge, LA)
- 5–7 ACSA (CA) Leadership Summit (Sacramento, CA)
- 8–11 CLAS (AL) AASSP/AAMSP Fall Conference (Orange Beach, AL)
- 8–11 Mountain States Regional Leadership Conference (Deadwood, SD)
- 13–15 NASSP Lead Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
- 16–17 NASA (NV) Annual Fall Conference (Las Vegas, NV)
- 18–20 NCPCAPA (NC) NCPCAPA Fall Instructional Symposium (Pinehurst, NC)
- 19–20 MPA (ME) MPA Fall Conference (Portland, ME)
- 20–21 IASP (IN) Assistant Principals Conference (Indianapolis, IN)
- 22–24 IASP (IN) Fall Professionals Conference (Indianapolis, IN)

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**Prudential Spirit of Community Winners Show Compassion, Determination**

- They raised awareness for pediatric cancer, invented devices to help the visually impaired, and raised money to support U.S. troops. These are just a few examples of the inspiring activities of 10 students, ranging in age from 12 to 18, who were this year’s national winners of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

- They were among 102 state finalists invited to our nation’s capital in early May for a four-day celebration of their innovation and civic-mindedness. The state finalists—one middle and one high school student from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia—each received a $1,000 award. The four days concluded with a gala reception at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History followed by an award ceremony the next day at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to announce the 10 national winners.

- The national honorees each received a $5,000 personal award and a $5,000 grant from the Prudential Foundation for the charity of their choice. Good Morning America co-host Robin Roberts also spoke to the honorees during the gala event. Some 33,000 middle and high school volunteers applied for the awards program.

- This year marked the 20th anniversary of the award program, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with NASSP. Information about the 2016 award program will be mailed to all middle and high schools. The application process for the 2016 program will open this month with an entry deadline of November 3.

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**October Live Webcast Event to Focus on How Leaders Drive Student Learning**

- The panelists are Cesar Cedillo, high school principal from Denver Public Schools, CO; Cheryl Franklin, elementary school principal from Prince George’s County Public Schools, MD; Eddie Mares, middle school principal from Gwinnett County, GA; and Gina O’Hare, elementary school principal from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, NC. Sonja Brookins Sentelises, vice president of K–12 policy and practice with Education Trust, will moderate.

- Panelists will explore behaviors that make a principal successful, including resilience, self-confidence, self-analysis, flexibility, situational awareness, relational awareness, positivity, and mindfulness. Register to attend by visiting http://bit.ly/1WbAL17.

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**Principals Take Action for ESEA**

- The panelists are Cesar Cedillo, high school principal from Denver Public Schools, CO; Cheryl Franklin, elementary school principal from Prince George’s County Public Schools, MD; Eddie Mares, middle school principal from Gwinnett County, GA; and Gina O’Hare, elementary school principal from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, NC. Sonja Brookins Sentelises, vice president of K–12 policy and practice with Education Trust, will moderate.

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**School of Thought**

**BLOG.NASSP.ORG**

Visit the NASSP blog, School of Thought, for updates on our advocacy efforts, posts from education experts and Ignite speakers, guest blogs from NASSP members, and much more.