AASA Center for System Leadership to Offer Cutting-Edge School Leadership Resources at 2008 National Conference on Education

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What: The AASA Center for System Leadership, the professional development arm of the American Association for School Administrators (AASA), will offer cutting-edge resources for school system leaders at AASA’s 2008 National Conference on Education. The Center will hold an educational forum to build aspiring superintendents’ leadership skills and offer eight additional sessions on hot topics and key aspects of school leadership.

When: Feb. 14-17, 2008

Where: Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Fla.

Details:
The AASA Center for System Leadership is responding to a potential critical shortage in the superintendency by expanding opportunities to identify and support aspiring superintendents. At the 2008 National Conference on Education, Center activities will include the first-ever Aspiring Leaders Forum (Feb. 14, 9:00 a.m.) – 3:30 p.m.). This special event will engage aspiring superintendents and provide vital information and tools that will expand their knowledge, build their skills and develop their leadership capabilities. A panel of distinguished superintendents will discuss a wide range of topics, including board relations, budgeting for success, instructional leadership, communications essentials and systems thinking.

The center will sponsor two additional leadership institutes:

- Developing and Leading a 20/20 Systems Focus for Your School System (Feb. 14, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) - This institute will focus on developing a future-focused vision of the Class of 2020, the children entering first grade next fall.
- Powerful Coaching for School Leaders (Feb. 14, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) - This institute will enable participants to adopt a coaching style of leadership and learn coaching skills and techniques used by professional executive coaches to create continuous improvement from the classroom to the boardroom.

In addition, the Center will offer five educational sessions at the conference:

- Key Beginning Strategies for First-Year Superintendents (Feb. 15, 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) - New superintendents will offer advice for making the first years of a superintendency the foundation for a long, successful and rewarding career.
- Building Professional Networks (Feb. 15, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.) – A distinguished panel will discuss networks as an essential aspect of personal and professional development for superintendents.
- Professional Standards for School Leaders (Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) –
Conference attendees will receive an update on professional standards that will help to ensure excellence in the superintendency.

- **New Responsibilities for School Districts: Requirements and Potential Impact of 403b Programs** (Feb. 16, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) - This interactive session will explain the major shift in responsibilities for oversight of 403b plans, including the key changes and potential impact on school systems. Featuring Robert Architect, Senior Tax Law Specialist at the Internal Revenue Service.

- **Systems Thinking in School Districts: From Beginners to Pros** (Feb. 16, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) - Superintendents will share their experiences with using systems thinking in their districts.

The Center will also sponsor a distinguished lecture:

- **“Leadership at Every Level: From Hierarchy to Networks,”** by Douglas Reeves, CEO and founder of The Leadership and Learning Center (Feb. 15, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.). With new 2008 research on leadership and student achievement, Reeves will demonstrate how to create leadership leverage by empowering leaders at every level.

For more information about these sessions, visit www.aasa.org/nce.

**Registration:** For more information about AASA Center for System Leadership initiatives or to request a complimentary press pass to the 2008 National Conference on Education, please contact Amy Vogt, communications and media relations manager, at 703-875-0723 or avogt@aasa.org. All press attendees must complete a Press Registration Form (PDF).

**About AASA**
AASA, founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across the United States. AASA’s mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. AASA’s major focus is standing up for public education.

**About the AASA Center for System Leadership**
The AASA Center for System Leadership is the professional development arm of AASA. The Center is a learning organization that fosters, develops and supports superintendents of schools and other school system leaders who are leading the transformation of public education. For more information, visit www.aasa.org/AASACenter.