Media Advisory: 2008 AASA Legislative Advocacy Conference

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What: The AASA Legislative Advocacy Conference is the major federal legislative event of the year for school system leaders. Superintendents and other school leaders from around the country will meet with legislators on Capitol Hill to call for a new agenda for public education.

When: April 16-18, 2008

Where: Hamilton Crowne Plaza, 1001 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Conference Information: www.aasa.org/advocacy

Highlights: As Congress continues to work on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (the law currently known as No Child Left Behind), AASA members will visit their legislators on Capitol Hill to advocate for AASA’s 2008 Legislative Agenda. Attendees will hear the “inside scoop” on the ESEA reauthorization, assess how federal education funding affects their local budgets, learn the status of the proposed elimination of school-based Medicaid claiming, and learn the latest information about legal changes facing schools in the coming year.

Conference sessions will include:

- “A View on the Reauthorization of ESEA from the Freshman Democrats,” presented by Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.), president of the Democratic freshman class in the 110th Congress.
- “Case Study on U.S. Supreme Court Cases,” presented by Maree Sneed, partner, Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.
- “Reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA): Views from Other National Organizations,” presented by Tor Cowan, director, Department of Legislation, American Federation of Teachers; Sally N. McConnell, associate executive director for government relations, National Association of Elementary School Principals; and Diane Shust, director of government relations, National Education Association.
- “Reauthorizing ESEA: All Children Will Learn,” presented by Bruce Hunter, associate executive director for public policy, AASA.
- “Federal Funding for Education and Other Critical Federal Education Issues,” presented by Mary Kusler, assistant director, government relations, AASA.
- “Reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Views from Capitol Hill,” presented by Roberto Rodriguez, senior counsel for education, Senate HELP Committee; Lindsey Hunsicker, senior education policy advisor, Senate HELP Committee; Alice Cain, professional staff member, House Committee on Education and Labor; and James Bergeron, counsel, House Committee on Education and Labor.
• “Maintaining Effective Media Relationships,” presented by Jack Dale, superintendent, Fairfax County, Va., Public Schools.; Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, superintendent, Pomona, Calif., Unified School District; Greg Toppo, reporter, USA Today; and Jerry Weast, superintendent, Montgomery County, Md., Public Schools.

Media Registration: Members of the press may request a complimentary press pass by emailing a request to Amy Vogt, communications and media relations manager, at avogt@aasa.org. Registration is restricted to editorial staff or the publisher of an approved magazine, publication or other media outlet.

About AASA
The American Association of School Administrators, 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.