AASA’s Leadership Services & Awards Department is centered on work that provides knowledge on critical issues facing the education community and the expertise to address them.

We are committed to developing and supporting school leaders as they work to ensure the highest quality public education for all students.

Our work supports superintendents and school system leaders at every career level, from those aspiring to go into administration to those whose work has made them champions for our public schools and children.
The mission of the AASA Aspiring Superintendent program is to prepare future educational leaders for the role and responsibilities of the school superintendent. The design of the academy is built around essential topics to provide understanding and knowledge of the leadership role of a school superintendent. Connecting the leadership responsibilities to participants’ knowledge of themselves, their leadership styles and strengths will prepare them to effectively lead and manage teams of people.

The Minnesota Aspiring Superintendents’ Academy provides a rich, collegial opportunity for school leaders who wish to become Minnesota school superintendents.

AASA’s National Superintendent Certification Program sharpens skills that successful superintendents identify as essential tools in today’s complex and challenging education environment. The certification program offers three regional cohorts: East Coast – Virginia; Midwest – Chicago, and West Coast – Oceanside, California.

The AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy is a cross-institutional partnership that offers a dynamic approach to urban superintendent preparation and certification. Starting with a conference in August, members of the Howard University Academy will convene one weekend a month and will connect online.

AASA/University of Southern California Urban Superintendents Academy

The AASA/USC Rossier model builds on USC’s great success in online programs, offering live synchronous and asynchronous online courses. The program will include in-person immersion sessions and mentoring by local superintendents, wherever the student is based.

Our work supports superintendents and school system leaders at every career level.
AASA Collaborative
The AASA Collaborative is designed to address challenges of school improvement, transformation and accountability at ground level. The Collaborative conducts site visits, consultations, conferences, in-person and online professional learning for school district leaders, and connects districts to university resources to assist in meeting the district’s goals. The Collaborative is dedicated to principles of collegial action, supportive critical friends, connected professional learning, and continual and transformational school improvement aimed at world class student learning.

Digital Consortium
The AASA Digital Consortium connects digitally savvy school superintendents from across the country to map a course for best utilizing the computer to finally permit learning that is tailored to the particular needs of each child, and to train teachers in how to use this incredibly powerful tool to meet their own teaching goals.

Educational Leadership Initiative (Wallace Foundation)
AASA and The Wallace Foundation have partnered to work on the Educational Leadership Initiative to develop, test and share useful approaches for training of education leaders. As a result of this partnership, AASA has developed a series of webinars, podcasts and Thought Leader sessions focused on education leadership, summer learning, and arts learning.

STEM Leadership Consortium with JASON Learning
The purpose of this consortium is to develop a cadre of STEM focused school leaders who understand the complexity of school culture and the urgency of increasing student interest in STEM fields.

Large County Consortium
The Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium, a unique network of several of the nation’s most successful districts and district leaders, is committed to world-class learning for all students. The mission of the Consortium is to significantly advance systemic education improvement and innovation in policy and practice to benefit all students. The Consortium works collaboratively to prepare students for college, career and citizenship by identifying and promoting the successful practices of large and diverse countywide and suburban school districts to inform federal and state policy and to support district efforts nationwide to improve and enhance their practices.

Superintendent’s Summit on Personalized Learning
Personalized Learning is transformational—it provides a learning environment that accommodates existing knowledge, skills, and abilities, sets high expectations, and pushes students in supportive ways to reach their personal education and life goals. AASA’s Fall Summit on Personalized Learning is designed to allow school leaders to discover, plan for, and share how Personalized Learning will have a positive impact in their districts, and what leaders can do to facilitate that change.

Women in School Leadership Initiatives
Initiatives designed to research the root causes of women’s underrepresentation in the field of education administration and expand support and networking opportunities for their professional growth.
Selected Resources
- AASA National Conference on Education
- AASA Partnership with ChromaGen Vision
- Wallace Foundation Resources
- AASA Conferences, Workshops and Webinars

Awards
- Superintendent of the Year Award
- Women in School Leadership Awards
- Distinguished Service Awards
- Educational Administrative Scholarship Awards
- VH1 Save the Music Award

Selected Publications
- Leadership Matters: A Virtual Webinar Series