

**CONFERENCE  
PROGRAM**

**MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD**

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

**JULY 9 – 11** ▶ **2024**

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill  
Washington, D.C.

**HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY:**



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 9		
8am – 5:15pm	<b>Registration Open</b>	<b>Regency Foyer</b>
12:30 – 5:15pm	<b>Opening Session</b> <b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>David Schuler, Executive Director, AASA</i> <i>Gustavo Balderas, President, AASA</i>	<b>Regency ABC</b>
12:40 – 1:30pm	<b>Vouchers Defund Public Schools, Devastate Student Learning and Discriminate Against Vulnerable Children – But Wait, There’s More</b> <i>Josh Cowen, Professor of Education Policy, Michigan State University, Author of “The Privateers: How Billionaires Created a Culture War and Sold School Vouchers”</i>	
1:30 – 2:20pm	<b>The Best of the Best: Staffers on Capitol Hill Share How to Have an Impact and Why They Partner with Superintendents on Federal Policy</b> <i>Erica Anhalt, Senior Legislative Assistant, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH)</i> <i>Brian Arata, Legislative Director, Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson (PA)</i> <i>Alaura Ervin, Legislative Assistant, Senator John Cornyn (TX)</i> <i>Danny Vinik, Senior Legislative Aide, Senator Ed Markey (MA)</i>	
2:20 – 2:30pm	<b>Break</b>	
2:30 – 3:15pm	<b>A Fireside Chat with Robert Gordon</b> <i>David R. Schuler, Executive Director, AASA</i> <i>Robert Gordon, Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Mobility, The White House</i>	
3:15 – 4:00pm	<b>Advocacy Is Key to District Leadership: How to Make You and Your Team Successful Advocates at the Federal Level</b> <i>Anthony Dragona, Interim Board Secretary and School Business Administrator, Union City Public Schools</i> <i>Heidi Sipe, Superintendent, Umatilla Umatilla School District 6R</i> <i>Lee Ann Wentzel, Superintendent, Ridley School District</i>	
4 – 4:15pm	<b>Break</b>	
4:15 – 5:15pm	<b>What Do You Need to Know for Tomorrow? AASA &amp; ASBO Federal Update</b> <i>Noelle Ellerson Ng, Associate Executive Director, Advocacy &amp; Governance, AASA</i> <i>Sasha Pudelski, Director of Advocacy, AASA</i> <i>Tara Thomas, Policy Analyst, AASA</i> <i>Elleka Yost, Director of Advocacy &amp; Research, ASBO International</i>	
5:30 – 6:30pm	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Congressional A</b>

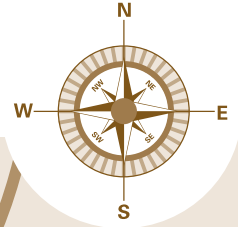
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10		
7:30 – 9am	<b>Congressional Breakfast</b> <i>Invited members of Congress and the Administration will share comments on education and their priorities for the future.</i>	<b>Regency A</b>
10am – 3pm	<b>Capitol Hill Day</b> Plan ahead to meet with your congressional delegation in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Make sure they are aware of your district’s needs and understand your priorities. <b>AASA/ASBO Legislative Advocacy Conference Hill Day Contact Information:</b> Should you need to contact AASA staff during your Hill visits, their information appears below. The AASA Legislative Staff have iPhones and will be available through phone and e-mail. <i>Capitol Hill cafeterias are located in the Dirksen Senate Office Building and the Rayburn House Office Building. (Refer to Capitol Map for building location.)</i> <i>Noelle Ellerson Ng: (703) 774-6935 – nellerson@aasa.org – @Noellerson</i> <i>Kathryn Sturdevant: (571) 480-0172 – ksturdevant@aasa.org – @AASAdvocacy</i> <i>Tara Thomas: (703) 303-2551 – tthomas@aasa.org – @TaraEThomas1</i> <i>Elleka Yost: (703) 434-1642 – eyost@asbointl.org – @ASBOUSA</i>	
6 – 7pm	<b>AASA President’s Installation</b>	<b>Regency A</b>
7 – 8pm	<b>AASA President’s Reception</b>	<b>Thornton Room</b>

## THURSDAY, JULY 11

<b>7:30 – 10:45am</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>	<b>Regency ABC</b>
<b>7:30 – 8:15am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	
<b>8:15 – 9am</b>	<b>The Feds Have Been Really Busy: What Do Superintendents Need to Know About Major Regs, Guidance and Lawsuits This Year?"</b> <i>Holly McIntush, Partner, Thompson &amp; Horton LLP</i> <i>Kendra Yoch, Counsel, Thompson &amp; Horton LLP</i>	
<b>9 – 9:45am</b>	<b>State of AI Policy: Federal, State and Local</b> <i>Rupak Gandhi, Superintendent, Fargo School District 1</i> <i>Andrew Ko, Founder, Kovexa</i> <i>Moderator: Laurence Caldwell, Government Relations Associate, Sourcewell</i>	
<b>9:45 – 10:45am</b>	<b>School Finances at a Tipping Point: Key Trends to Watch</b> <i>Maggie Cicco, Research Fellow, Educomics Lab at Georgetown University</i>	

# U.S. CAPITOL Visitor Center

Due to construction, some entrances to the Capitol office buildings are closed. The green circles indicate the entrances that are open.



Legend			
	Accessible Entrance		Elevators
	Accessible Route		Parking
	Visitor Services Shuttle		Bus Pick-Up
	Circulator Bus Stop		Bus Drop-Off
	Metro Station		



# CAPITOL HILL MEETING TIPS

## I. PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO:

- a.** Review your materials and ask AASA and ASBO staff any questions you may have. Refer to the issues briefs in your folder and in the app if you need any more background information.
- b.** Coordinate with others with whom you will be making visits. Outline who is going to play what role in the meeting and what will be discussed.
- c.** Leave plenty of time to get to and around the Hill if visits are permitted to offices. A map is included.

## II. DURING YOUR MEETING:

- a.** Introduce yourself, present a business card if the meeting is in-person, clearly state where you are from and that you are a constituent (if you are), and briefly describe your district and student demographics.
- b.** Mention that you are attending a national conference sponsored by AASA and ASBO International. Policymakers need to understand this connection to be responsive to our national advocacy efforts.
- c.** Cover the following visit priorities:
  - i.** Highlight successes from your district.
  - ii.** Briefly discuss how you spent COVID relief funding and the Importance of robust federal funding for education.
  - iii.** Discuss legislation pertaining to student data privacy, mental health, Secure Rural Schools, and school vouchers.
- d.** Thank them for their time and invite them to visit the schools in your district.

## III. WHEN YOU GET HOME:

- a.** E-mail the staff you met with a short thank-you note.
- b.** Follow up with any information that you promised at the meeting.
- c.** Continue the relationship with your Members of Congress and their staff. Update them on your district and invite them to visit when they are home.
- d.** Let AASA and ASBO staff know how the meetings went by completing the google doc form sent around.





# EVERYONE BENEFITS!

When your whole team has access to the resources, education, and networking opportunities offered through ASBO International District Membership.



ASBO INTERNATIONAL

District  
Membership is  
only **\$499**.  
That is less than  
the cost of two  
individual  
memberships!

**READY TO GET STARTED?**

 [asbointl.org/everyone](https://asbointl.org/everyone)

# It's everything AASA Advocacy, in your pocket.



News



Events



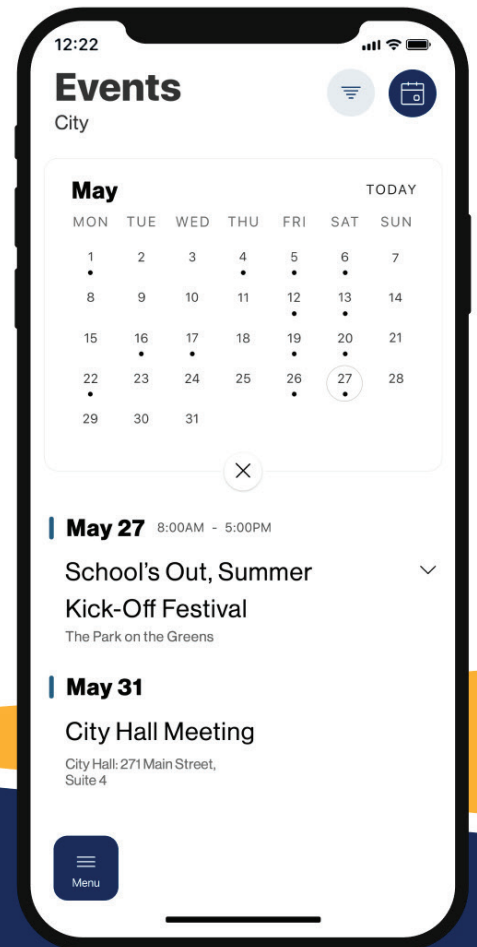
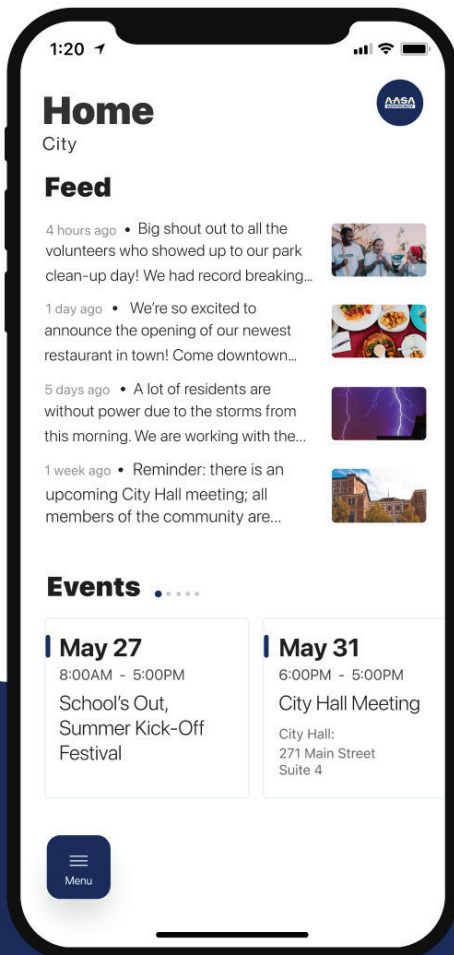
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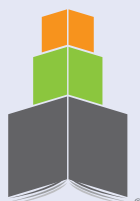
Staff



Alerts



Download the **AASA Advocacy** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
EDUCATION

# FUTURE DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

**MARCH 6-8 — 2025**

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Registration for AASA Members  
Opens July 16

General Registration  
Opens July 30

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Presented by:

