

Milestones in AASA's

This historical timeline, produced on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of AASA's founding, contains many of the milestone moments of the association's rich past.

AASA was started by a small group of men gathered in Harrisburg, Pa., in 1865, and run by volunteers until 1921 when it hired its first executive secretary. For just over 100 years, from 1870 until 1973, AASA was part of the National Education Association (known as the National Educational Association until 1906). That year AASA severed relations with NEA to become an independent association.

What follows is an abridged version of a complete timeline, which can be found in full on the AASA website at www.aasa.org/history.aspx.

Early Years

1865

The National Association of School Superintendents organizes on Aug. 17, 1865. It is the first national association to limit membership to school administrators.

The First Executive Secretary

1921

Sherwood D. Shankland becomes the first executive secretary of the NEA Department of School Superintendence at an annual salary of \$6,000.

AASA begins to charge a **membership fee** of \$5 a year.

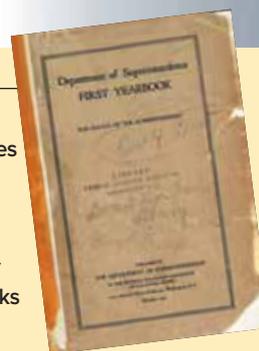


1922

Membership records reveal 1,263 had joined the association. (No records existed prior to this date.)

1923

The **first yearbook is published** (and continues annually until 1960), featuring research on the superintendency. For many of these early administrators, yearbooks served as textbooks.



1928

The first American Education Award recipient is **James W. Crabtree**, executive secretary of NEA.

The War Years

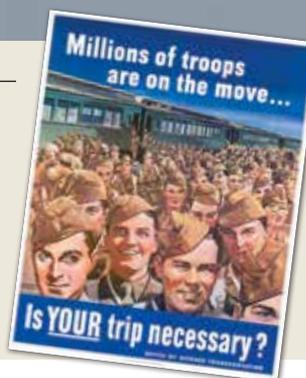
1943

AASA's 1943 **convention is canceled** under orders from the U.S. Office of Defense Transportation. AASA's income shrinks.

The first issue of *The School Administrator*, a one-page newsletter, is published.

1944

AASA organizes five **regional wartime conferences** to minimize strain on hotel and transportation systems.



1945

AASA national convention and regional meetings are canceled at the request of the War Committee on Conventions. All conferences with attendance over 50 people are canceled so the government can reserve hotels for service and war personnel.

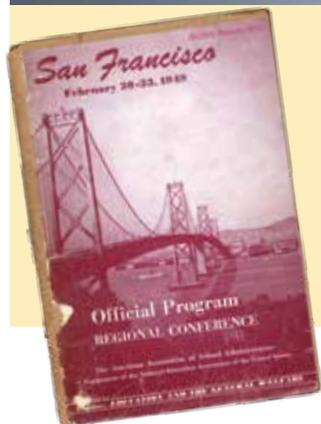
Expanded Services

1949

Membership **dues double** to \$10 a year as AASA expands services and staffing.

AASA's Cooperative Program in Educational Administration focuses on **professional advancement** of administrators through university training.

AASA **amends the qualifications for membership** to include graduate study.

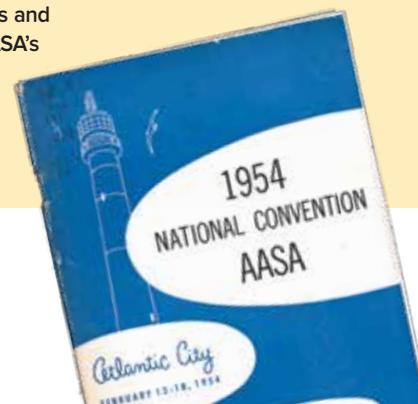


1950

AASA's first school building exhibit is held with architectural exhibits and a competition at AASA's convention.

1955

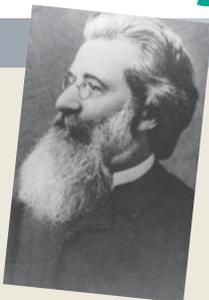
Membership in AASA tops 10,000.



History

BY LIZ GRIFFIN

1866
Birdsey Grant Northrop is elected **first president**. Nine states and 20 cities are represented at the first convention.



1870
NASS merges with the National Teachers Association and the American Normal School Association to become the **National Educational Association**. NASS becomes the NEA Department of School Superintendence.

1880
Post-Civil War, members rally Congress to fund universal public schools to educate emancipated African Americans.

1908
The Department of School Superintendence formally resolves that large-city schools teach the children of immigrants and adults unable to speak English.

The Great Depression

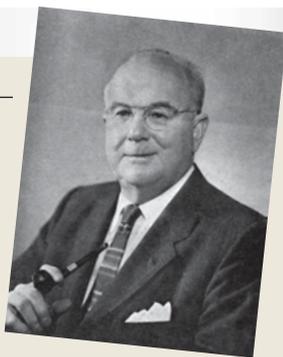
1930
Despite the Depression, the convention draws crowds to Atlantic City, N.J.: 5,850 hotel rooms were booked and 248 exhibitors had displays.



1930s
To make payroll, some staff are put on half salary for extended periods, and Shankland and others borrow on their personal life insurance.

1937
Members approve a **name change**. The NEA's Department of School Superintendence becomes the **American Association of School Administrators**, a department of NEA.

1946
Worth McClure becomes the **second executive secretary**. He retires in 1956.



1947
The **first national conference since 1942** is held; attendance is 9,600. AASA Executive Committee authorizes an annual meeting of presidents of state associations in spring 1947.



1956
Finis E. Engleman becomes the **third executive secretary** of AASA.

1960
AASA's **final yearbook** is published with resources shifted to other publications.



1961
AASA's new Committee on Federal Policy and Legislation studies the relationships between the federal government and local schools.

1963
Exhibit revenue at conventions provides 42 percent of the association's half-million dollar annual budget. **Forrest E. Conner** becomes the fourth executive secretary of AASA.

Milestones



Awareness of Diversity

1963 —
Women make up only 3-4 percent of AASA members, mostly assistant superintendents. AASA executive secretary acknowledges a problem.

1969 —
 AASA becomes an **associated organization** of NEA, rather than an NEA department.

AASA's **National Academy for School Executives**, or NASE, begins offering training in locations nationwide.

NEA's president attacks school administrators in the press, **straining relations** with AASA.

A **record-breaking 30,000** attend AASA's 101st convention, featuring 10 general sessions and more than 100 closed-circuit television programs.

AASA's **legislative program** calls for a cabinet-level Department of Education.

Membership Peaks

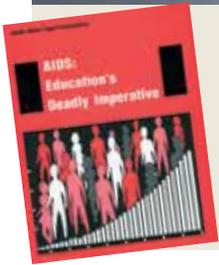
1974 —
 Membership surpasses **21,000**.



1975 —
 The Federal Relations breakfast event at AASA convention draws 400.
AASA's National Academy for School Executives serves more than 3,500 administrators at 65 short programs nationwide.

1977 —
 AASA takes title on Sept. 29 to **new headquarters** at 1801 North Moore St. in Arlington, Va. The purchase price is \$1.35 million.

Series of Firsts



1987 —
 AASA **initiates HIV/AIDS work** to develop guidelines for administrators, a slide-tape presentation and workshops.

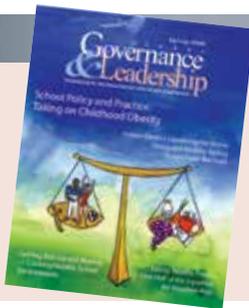
1988 —
 June Gabler is elected the **first woman president** of AASA.
 AASA creates a **curriculum audit service**.
 Gene Carter is named **first National Superintendent of the Year**.



1989 —
 AASA's **Options for Pre-Teens** initiative begins.

Reformed

2003 —
 A **childhood obesity initiative** offers members resources, tools and peer support.



2004 —
 AASA's **new governance structure** creates a seven-region governing body with 135 representatives.



2005 —
 A \$1.5 million cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allows AASA to address **asthma in schools**.

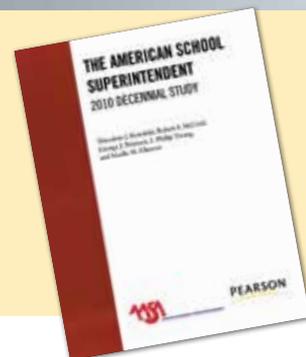
Rebranded and Recharged



2011 —
 AASA moves into **shared headquarters** with NAESP at 1615 Duke St. in Alexandria, Va. Purchase share: \$3.01 million.

Coordinated school health becomes a focus for AASA's children's programs.

AASA releases **"The American School Superintendent: 2010 Decennial Study."**



1971

Paul B. Salmon becomes AASA's **fifth executive director**.



1972

AASA moves from **NEA headquarters** to its own building in Arlington, Va., along with NSPRA, NAESP and National Association of Educational Secretaries.



1973

AASA severs all ties with **NEA** and becomes an autonomous organization.

1978

AASA **National Women's Caucus** criticizes AASA for lack of a woman on the Executive Committee and mounts a campaign to elect a candidate.

Effie Jones is hired to direct the Office of Minority Affairs, **promote women and minorities in leadership**, and oversee children's initiatives.

AASA/AAESA co-sponsor **the first federal legislative policy conference**, later known as "I Care" and "We Care."

1980

The School Administrator is transformed **from a newsletter to a magazine**, and begins accepting commercial advertising in 1981.

1985

Richard D. Miller becomes the **sixth executive director** of AASA.

1993

AASA approves **Professional Standards for the Superintendency**, developed by a specially appointed commission.

1994

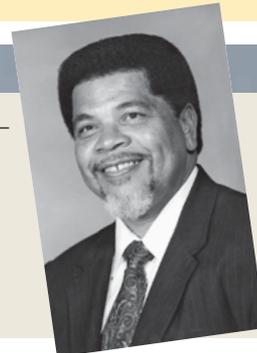
Paul D. Houston becomes the **seventh executive director** of AASA.

1995

AASA launches decade-long initiative to foster healthy school environments and improved indoor air quality.

1997

AASA launches its first website.



2000

Benjamin Canada becomes the **first African-American president of AASA**.

2008

Daniel A. Domenech becomes the first Latino to serve as executive director. He is AASA's **eighth executive director**.

AASA conducts 15 surveys on the economic impact of recession in school districts. Surveys prove critical in development of 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the 2010 Jobs Stimulus package.

2011

AASA promotes alternative **models of school breakfast** delivery in 99 schools.

2012

AASA surveys members on **school discipline** policy and practice and school safety.

2014

A **rebranded AASA** introduces a new logo and a new name: AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

AASA launches the AASA **National Superintendent Certification Program**.

2015

AASA celebrates **150 years**. A **redesigned website** is launched.

