

Dear Colleague,

In conjunction with the beginning of AASA's 2014 Legislative Advocacy Conference, we are excited to launch the [first in a new series of toolkits](#) to help you, as superintendents, develop and spread messages supporting public education in your communities. As AASA serves as the voice of superintendents on Capitol Hill, you serve as the voice of public education in your communities.

This first toolkit, "Derailing the Push to Privatize: Vouchers, ALEC, and the Success of Public Education," includes an introductory section celebrating the successes of public education. Public school districts are still operating with limited budgets to educate 50 million students a year, many of whom live in poverty. Despite this, graduation rates are at an all-time high and students are completing more challenging coursework and attending college at increasing rates. This toolkit provides a slideshow, talking points and other resources to help you spread this message of these and other public school successes.

The remaining sections of the toolkit focus on the current drive in many states to privatize education through voucher programs, as pushed by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and other groups. Fact sheets, sample letters to the editor, talking points and other resources are provided on both school voucher programs and ALEC. AASA hopes these resources will help our members lead the messaging against these programs in their communities.

The toolkit can be found [here](#), and in the attached document. AASA grants permission for you to use and alter any part of this toolkit to fit your needs. Please contact Leslie Finnan at lfinnan@aasa.org with questions or recommendations on topics or resources that would be helpful in future toolkits.

Sincerely,

Dan Domenech