



THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE’S APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Friday, February 19, 2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Glenn Lungarini

OFFICERS:

President

Andre Hauser, Principal
Waterford High School

President-Elect

Dr. Michael Litke, Principal
Naubuc School, Glastonbury

Vice President (High)

Joseph Blake, Principal
Coventry High School

Vice President (Middle)

Christine Baldelli, Principal
New Fairfield Middle School

Vice President (Elementary)

Victoria Reed, Principal
Highland Elementary School, Wallingford

Secretary-Treasurer

Amy Yost, Principal
Sunnyside Elementary School, Shelton

AFFILIATED WITH:

- Association for Middle Level Education
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Federation of State High School Associations
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- New England League of Middle Schools

30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: (203)250-1111
FAX: (203)250-1345
www.casciac.org

HB 6439: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Good afternoon. My name is Glenn Lungarini. I am the Executive Director of the CT Association of Schools / CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (“CAS-CIAC”). CAS-CIAC represents approximately 1,000 public and parochial elementary, middle and high schools in Connecticut.

We support a wide range of activities, both academic and athletic. CAS-CIAC advocates for the best interests of schools, students, faculty and administrators in providing exceptional, education-based experiences.

I am submitting testimony on **HB 6439** to request consideration for the appropriation of funds to support student leadership programs offered by CAS-CIAC. We request consideration for CAS-CIAC funding in the amount of \$210,000 to \$350,00. This request aligns with, and is proportional to, current funding appropriated to the Nutmeg Games in line T922, in the amount of \$40,000, of the Governor’s Proposed Budget. As stated on its website, the Nutmeg Games is a 501(c) (3) organization that provides athletic competition to more than 7,500 athletes ages 6 to 18. Similarly, CAS-CIAC is a 501(c) (3) organization that services the K to 12 student population. However, our programing reaches far beyond the more than 70,000 student-athletes who participate in interscholastic athletics on an annual basis.

CAS-CIAC engages K to 12 students in leadership development and recognition programs that cultivates each child’s cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and mental well-being. Our programing aligns with the State Department of Education and State Board of Education goals of promoting student voice and developing innovative, critical thinking problem solvers. Our programs seek to close Connecticut’s opportunity gap by providing equity in access to exceptional student-centered leadership and growth mindset experiences.

CAS-CIAC student driven leadership programs include: the State Student Advisory Council on Education, Student Equity Advisory Board, Student Athletic Advisory Board, Unified Sports, Elementary Level Leadership Conference, Middle School Level Leadership Conference, High School Level Leadership Conference, Connecticut Association of National Honor Societies, Connecticut Association of Student Councils, Student Arts Award Recognition Program, Student Scholar Athlete Recognition Program, Student Sportsmanship Council and Conference, The CIAC Class Act Program, Connecticut High School and Middle School Debate League, Robotics, and E-Sports.

A three-minute video highlighting several of these programs can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YGzA2qjGfQ&feature=youtu.be>.

Serving schools
and their leaders

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CAS-CIAC has maintained most of our student-leadership programs and have provided a much-needed virtual support community for Connecticut's kids. We have engaged students in meaningful learning experiences that have resulted in actionable change within our school communities, at a time when social isolation and distance learning have led to increases in youth anxiety and depression. As CAS-CIAC, a non-profit organization, recovers from COVID-19 pandemic, your funding support will ensure that our valuable student-centered leadership programs continue to have a positive impact on Connecticut's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Lungarini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and "L".

Glenn Lungarini
Executive Director

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS