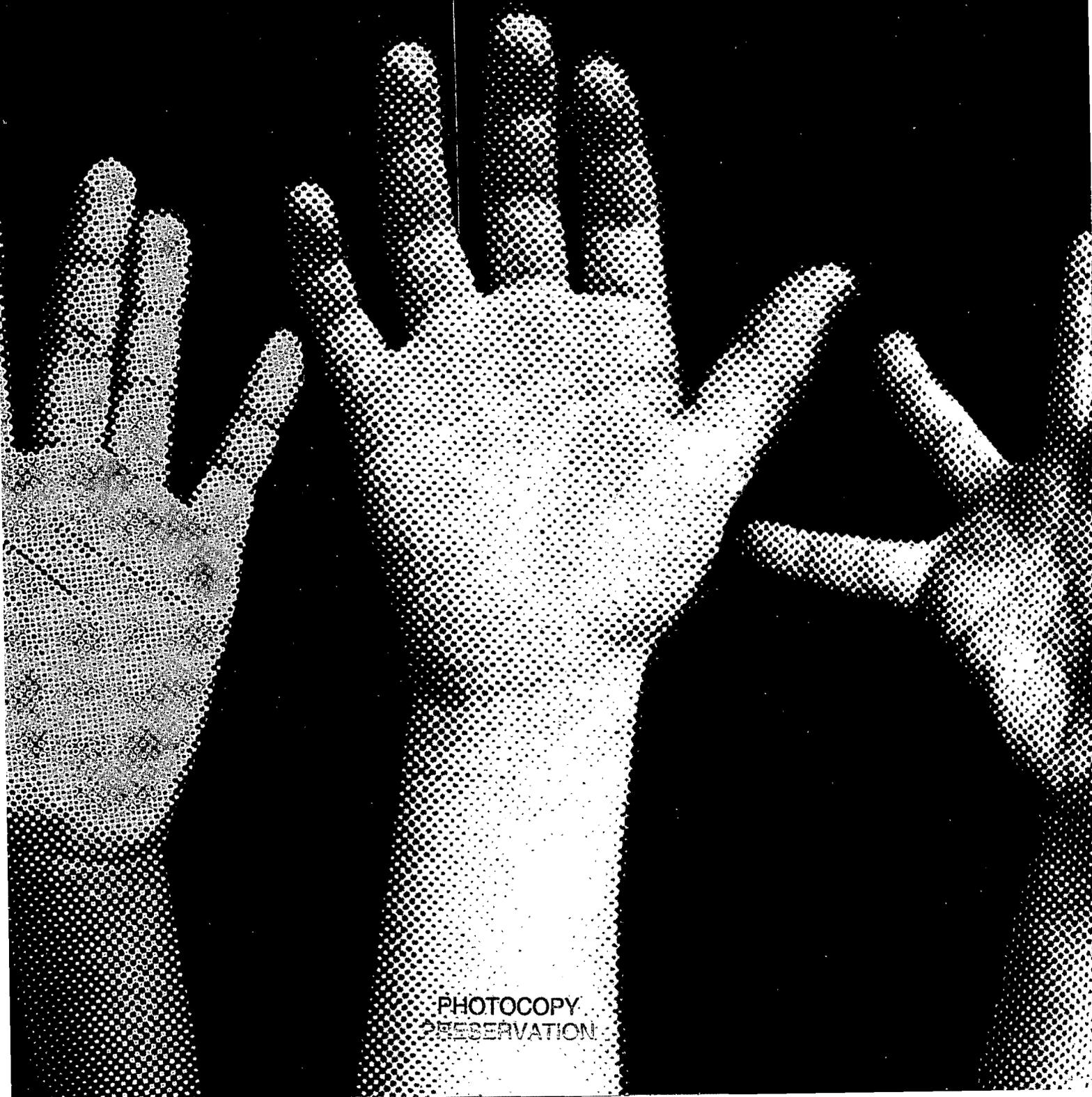


# LEARNING **FIRST** ALLIANCE

An alliance of major national  
educational organizations dedicated  
to improving student learning in  
America's public schools



PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

Educating  
America's  
Children



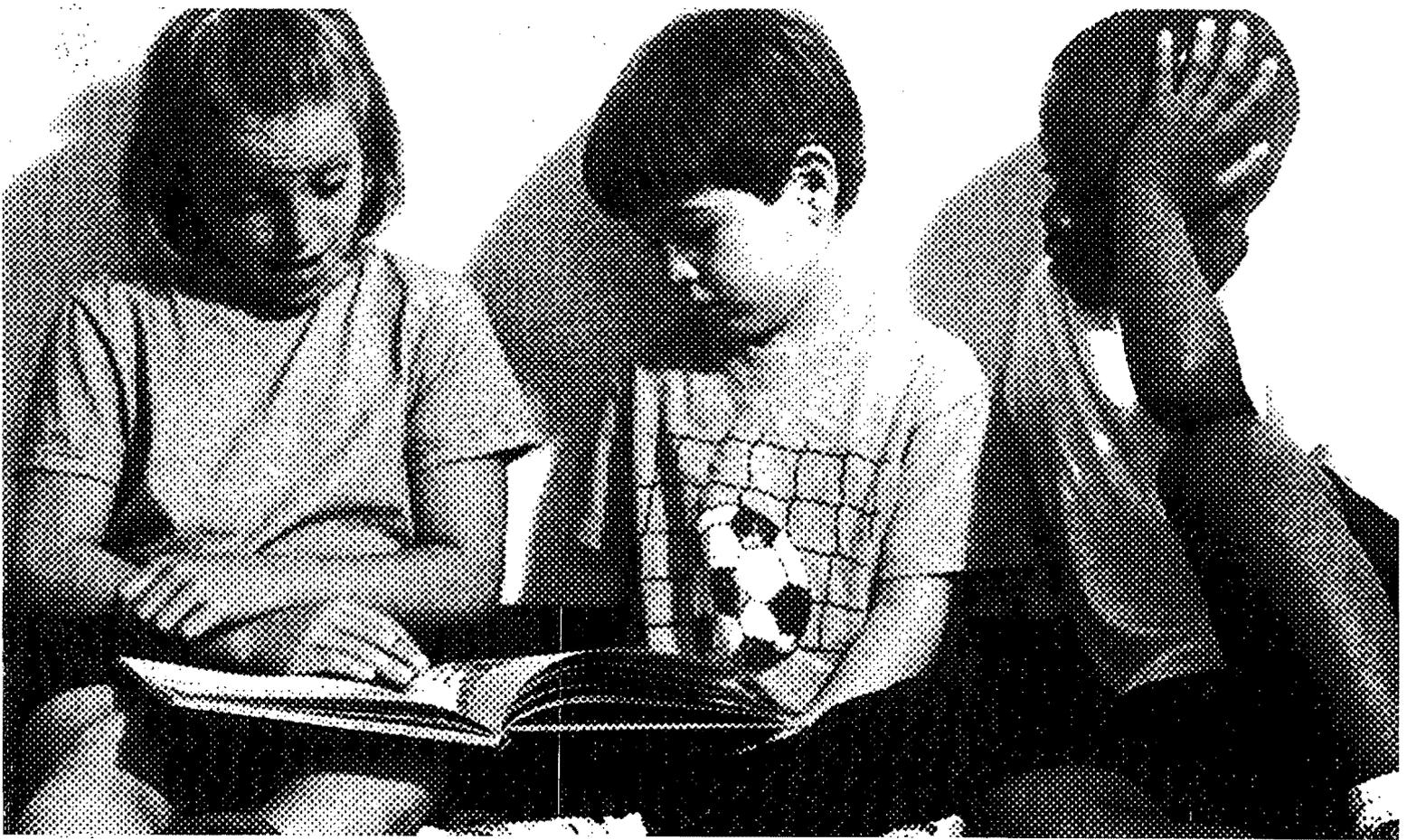
Learning First Alliance  
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036  
202/822.8405 extension 30  
sagawas@learningfirst.org  
202/872-4050 facsimile  
www.learningfirst.org

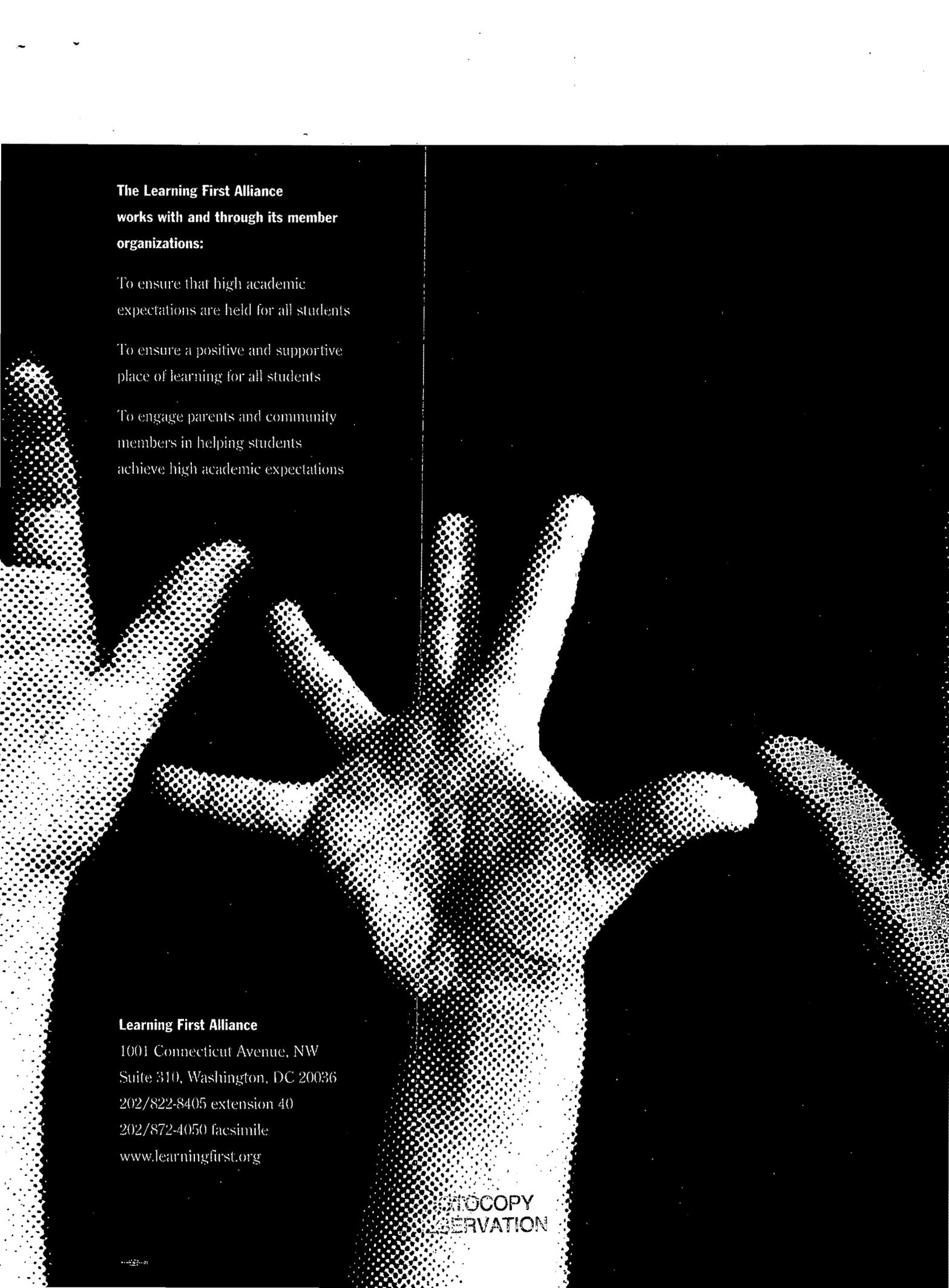


LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE

**Shirley Sagawa**  
Executive Director

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION





**The Learning First Alliance  
works with and through its member  
organizations:**

To ensure that high academic  
expectations are held for all students

To ensure a positive and supportive  
place of learning for all students

To engage parents and community  
members in helping students  
achieve high academic expectations

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## THE LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE FACT SHEET

### THE LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE

The new Learning First Alliance is an unprecedented and permanent collaboration of twelve leading educational organizations that have come together to improve student learning in America's public elementary and secondary schools.

### MEMBERS

The twelve organizations in the Learning First Alliance represent more than ten million Americans through their members and constituencies -- including our nation's teachers; principals; parents; teacher educators; local and state school board members; school administrators; national and state policy makers; and community leaders.

The Alliance members include:

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of School Administrators  
American Federation of Teachers  
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
Education Commission of the States  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of State Boards of Education  
National Education Association  
National Parent Teacher Association  
National School Boards Association

### ALLIANCE GOALS

The Goals of the Learning First Alliance are three-fold:

- To ensure that high academic expectations are held for all students.
- To ensure a positive and supportive place of learning for all students
- To engage parents and community members in helping students achieve high academic expectations.

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Children



American Association of Colleges  
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## **ALLIANCE HISTORY**

For the last quarter century the CEOs and executive directors of major national educational organizations met under the auspices of the Forum of Educational Organization Leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing public education. The Forum has now become the Learning First Alliance, whose members will work together within this newly incorporated framework strategically and aggressively to improve student learning in America's public schools.

## **ALLIANCE COLLABORATION AND ACTIVITIES**

The Learning First Alliance represents an unprecedented, self-initiated commitment by its members to work in concert to improve student learning. The Alliance will develop and deliver a common message to all parts of the education system, align priorities, share and disseminate success stories, encourage collaboration at every level, and work toward long-term change based on solid research.

## **ALLIANCE PRIORITY ISSUES**

The Alliance's initial activities will focus on improving reading and math achievement. Each member organization will undertake one or more specific initiatives and will work collaboratively on joint projects. Special efforts will be made to seek, share, and replicate national and local success stories and model initiatives.

## **ALLIANCE SUMMIT ON READING AND MATH**

To further its reading and math priorities, the Alliance will sponsor a national summit in January, 1998, to be held in Washington, D.C. The principal participants in the Summit will be its leadership -- both staff, boards, and state affiliate leaders of member organizations. A significant number of delegates will be practitioners who are the elected leadership of the member organizations. National leaders in the field of education and related concerns will participate. The Summit will conclude with an announced action plan to be undertaken by the Learning First Alliance and its member organizations to improve student achievement in the areas of reading and math.

## THE LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE SUMMIT ON READING AND MATH

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Children



In January, 1998, the Alliance will jointly convene the leadership of the member organizations for the first time in history to participate in a national summit focused on improving reading and math achievement.

The Alliance has chosen to focus on reading and math, initially, because they are core subjects and failure to master them in the early grades limits achievement in almost every other subject. In addition to approving and announcing specific strategies to improve reading and math achievement, the Alliance will also make a joint statement about the importance of working together for the benefit of children.

To develop an action agenda that will be announced at the Summit, the Alliance is assembling advisory groups with expertise in reading and math. Each Alliance member organization will be expected to make specific commitments for new activities directed at improving reading and math achievement, consistent with the agreed-upon strategies.

The Alliance will design the summit to have broad-based and lasting effects. Member organizations represent more than 10 million individuals including parents, teachers, curriculum specialists, school principals, administrators, school board and state board of education members, chief state school officers, and teacher educators. Frequently Alliance members are approached to partner with other organizations because of their leadership of the various subparts of the education system and their ability to disseminate information broadly. The Alliance will use all of its communication networks to convey a sense of urgency around the issue of school improvement and help practitioners understand what works and why, based on solid research evidence. In addition, the Alliance will hold each of its member groups accountable for following through on their commitments to further the reading and math action plans. And Alliance leadership will work toward the development, in future years, of state and local partnerships that mirror the Alliance membership. In this way, the Learning First Alliance can leverage coordinated efforts to improve the education of children in virtually every school district in the country.

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## LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE GOALS

The Alliance works with and through its member organizations to achieve the following three goals, which are central to its mission of improving student learning in America's public elementary and secondary schools.

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Children



- 1) **First, the Alliance will work with and through its member organizations to ensure that high academic expectations are held for all students.**

States and school districts should have high academic standards for their core subjects. These standards should lay out clearly and specifically what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level, sequence of grade levels, or other specific checkpoints. This specificity will ensure that educators, students, parents, policymakers, school board members, and the public all share an understanding of, and commitment to, what is expected of students. The standards of local school districts should be consistent with those set by states, but need not be limited to them.

To provide all students the opportunity to achieve these standards, policies, curriculum, instruction, materials, facilities, technologies, educator preparation, continuing professional development, assessment, school structures, and delivery systems must be in alignment. Students who need extra help should receive timely and intensive interventions, and students should not be promoted to higher levels of schooling without meeting the standards. Student assessments should enhance learning and enable all stakeholders to know whether students are meeting the standards.

Educators should be trained in the specific subject they are teaching. In addition, teachers and other school personnel should be equipped to make judgments about the extent to which students are meeting the standards, diagnose student needs, and provide particular interventions so that all students may succeed.

- 2) **Second, the Alliance works with and through its member organizations to ensure a positive and supportive place of learning for all students.**

Schools should be safe havens and nurturing environments for all students. Individual schools and school districts should respond to the ways that students learn best and accommodate children with special needs. Schools should be housed in safe and healthy facilities, and equipped with appropriate and up-to-date equipment, materials, and technology.

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Page Two

All adults working within schools should model behaviors that demonstrate the highest levels of respect, responsibility, character, and civility. Further, school districts and individual schools should adopt and enforce clear codes of conduct for all students so that school personnel, students, and parents will share an understanding of the behavior that is expected of students and the consequences for not meeting those expectations. Appropriate and rigorous alternative placements should be available to address the needs of students whose behavior is disruptive to the education of other students. Teachers and other school personnel should be trained in effective classroom management practices.

Finally, all those involved with the delivery of public education should become advocates on behalf of youth to promote safe, healthy, orderly, and supportive communities beyond the walls of the school.

- 3) **Third, the Alliance works with and through its member organizations to engage parents and all community members in helping students achieve high academic expectations.**

States and local school districts should maximize the ways that parents and community members can participate in schools. For example, community members and parents should participate in the development of standards, programs, and assessments that affect students' academic performance. Families should be encouraged to participate in all facets of the child's education. Public schools should develop partnerships with businesses, civic organizations, and other community groups to promote adult participation in children's education and to maximize the resources available to support learning. Teachers and other school personnel should be trained in effective practices that support parenting and parent involvement.

The Alliance believes that communities should hold schools accountable for the achievement of these three goals.

# USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1997

## Better public schools focus of new alliance

By Tamara Henry  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Twelve major education groups, concerned that public schools may not survive another barrage of attacks, today announce that they are forming an alliance to improve public education.

The Learning First Alliance of teachers, principals, parents, school boards, curriculum experts and community leaders will work to:

- ▶ Establish tougher course work for all students.
- ▶ Make sure schools are safe learning environments.
- ▶ Forge a network of parents and community workers.

The first project will bring education's "front-line workers" to Washington for a January summit on improving reading and math achievement, says Don Cameron of the 2.3-million-member National Education Association.

Criticism of public schools for poor academic achievement, low standards and violence has given rise to proposals to provide tax-funded vouchers for private schools.

Alliance members say the voucher movement could undermine public schools.

The alliance also includes the American Federation of Teachers, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and national associations for both elementary and secondary school principals.

Cameron calls the alliance unprecedented because its members represent more than 10 million people. All the groups also have pledged to avoid all political activities.

"These are groups that haven't always seen eye to eye," he says. "We've decided to put all that stuff aside (and) ... focus on the kids."

"If we act together ... we could actually make a difference," says Anne Bryant, executive director of the National School Boards Association.

One group absent from the list is the Council of the Great City Schools, which represents urban public school systems.

Director Michael Casserly says the council was not invited but may ask to work informally with the alliance until new members are accepted.

Cameron and Bryant say frustration often follows education summits led by political or business leaders.

The ideas they generate can change with the leadership and often don't reach those who can implement them, they say.

"We are the people who are on the ground at the places where this stuff takes place," Cameron says.

# EDUCATION DAILY

## Education Coalition Targets Reading, Math Achievement

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

A dozen school groups say they will put their differences aside and work together to improve student achievement in public schools.

The new Learning First Alliance plans a January summit of its member groups in Washington, D.C., to develop strategies that will target student learning in mathematics and reading.

"For our part, we're willing to stand up now, today, and focus all our energies not on our own organizational self-interests, but on the issues of reading and mathematics," Don Cameron, executive director of the National Education Association, said at a news briefing yesterday.

In addition to NEA, the group includes: the American Federation of Teachers, the National Parent Teacher Association, and groups representing school administrators; chief state school officers; state education officials; teacher education colleges; state boards of education; curriculum developers; elementary and secondary school principals; and school boards.

The coalition will work through its state and local organizations on three main goals:

- Ensuring higher academic expectations for all students through teachers who are trained in the subject they teach, clear standards for each grade level or specific checkpoints, and timely interventions for struggling students rather than social promotion;

- Developing positive and supportive learning environments, as well as providing safe buildings with up-to-date equipment; and
- Engaging parents and the community at large in developing standards, programs and assessments, forming partnerships with businesses and community groups to maximize learning resources, and training teachers in effective parent involvement practices.

The alliance says it won't be a lobbying group, but rather a group that will initiate "real change" starting with the January meeting.

"We have extensive systems for research, informing policies, connecting effective practices and for encouraging change from within," said Anne Bryant, executive director of the National School Boards Association and vice chairman of the Learning First Alliance.

The group will replace the Forum of Educational Organization that met over the past 25 years to discuss public education.

Allen Glenn, president-elect of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education will be the coalition's first board chairman.

*For more information, contact Shirley Sagawa, Executive Director, Learning First Alliance, 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036, (202)822-8405, ext. 40.  
—Regina Lightfoot-Clark*

# EDUCATION WEEK

Volume XVII, Number 5 • October 1, 1997

## Washington

### New Alliance Endeavors To Put Schools First

By Linda Jacobson  
Washington

The leaders of 12 education organizations, most of them based here, are putting aside their past differences and forming a new coalition to focus on raising student achievement and boosting support for public schools.

But instead of lobbying for more education funding from Congress, the Learning First Alliance—which will include the two national teachers' unions, groups representing school administrators, the National School Boards Association, and the National PTA—will focus most of its energy on getting members of local affiliates to collaborate.

"This is radical stuff," Anne L. Bryant, the executive director of the NSBA, said during an interview last week. "For the first time, these 12 organizations are saying we're going to be serious about working cooperatively."

#### Plans for a Summit

The group's first project will be to convene a January summit in Washington to discuss research about improving students' math and reading skills and to come up with specific projects based on common goals.

The topic for the summit parallels President Clinton's controversial initiative for new reading tests for 4th graders and math tests for 8th graders, but Ms. Bryant said the positions of the 12 groups are "all over the map" on the issue of national tests.

Between six and 15 leaders

from each of the 12 organizations will be invited to participate in the summit. Representatives from other education groups will also be invited.

The alliance has existed in another form since the early 1970s, as the Forum of Educational Organization Leaders, but that included only the leaders of the 12 associations and was merely a "meet and eat" group, said Don Cameron, the executive director of the NEA.

Efforts to do anything more than talk to each other failed, he said, because of the inherent rivalries between labor and management, reflected in the disparate memberships of the participating groups.

"We won't be effective unless we let this filter down throughout our organizations," Mr. Cameron said.

New leadership at some of these 12 groups—Sandra Feldman at the American Federation of Teachers, Bob Chase at the NEA, Ms. Bryant at the NSBA, and Paul Houston at the American Association of School Administrators—is one factor behind the renewed commitment to joining forces, Mr. Cameron said.

But, he added: "Even with this change of leaders, we could have gone on with our intramural squabbles."

#### New Name, Same People?

Some of the organizations represented in the Learning First group were also part of the Education First Alliance, a 1995 effort that focused on preventing cuts in federal education spending.

And similar coalitions abound

#### Learning First Alliance Members

- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- Education Commission of the States
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- National School Boards Association

in Washington, Ms. Bryant said. The question will be whether Learning First's unified front will be enough to break down some of the walls between local educators, board members, and parents.

"These organizations are going to have to stick to it for five to 10 years," said John F. Jennings, a veteran Democratic House aide who now directs the Center on Education Policy, an independent group based here that promotes better public schools. "But it's a good beginning."

Observers said it seems clear the groups are paying attention to surveys that show declining support for public schools, such as those conducted by New York City-based Public Agenda.

But the new alliance might not be enough to win the confidence of those who are truly dissatisfied

with their local schools and are looking to other alternatives, such as charter schools, private school vouchers, and home schooling.

The group will continue to draw the line against vouchers, said Shirley Sagawa, the executive director of the alliance, which will operate out of an office in Washington. Ms. Sagawa was previously the executive vice president of the Corporation for National Service.

Jeanne Allen, the president of the Washington-based Center for Education Reform, which focuses on expanding school choice, said: "We have to be cautiously optimistic, but part of me says it's the same group of people with a different name. You've got to be willing to not just engage the public, but support what they want even if you don't agree with it."

09-28-97 1843EDT

## Education Groups Form Alliance

WASHINGTON (AP) Groups representing teachers, parents, school boards, principals, and others in education have formed an alliance to work more closely on helping students do better.

The Learning First Alliance is to be announced Monday. The group's first activity will be a gathering in January to focus on improving reading and math.

The organizations have worked together on educational issues. But the alliance takes the cooperation a step further by involving the groups' leaders, who will work out strategies for dealing with issues, says executive director Shirley Sagawa.

Some of the groups have found themselves at odds. For example, the coalition includes the two major teachers' unions and the National School Boards Association.

"They're labor and management, they're state regulators and the school people who follow these regulations," Sagawa said.

"They're parents and principals. They don't expect to always agree.

"But if you can't solve the problems that so many children have learning to read without looking at a broad array of issues, from how teachers are prepared to what happens in the classroom, what curriculum materials are selected, what the state is saying, or what the standards are."

The members include the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Council of Chief State School Officers, Education Commission of the States, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Education Association, National Parent Teacher Association, and the National School Boards Association.

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## LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE BACKGROUND

For the last quarter century, the leaders of major national educational organizations representing the concerns of America's elementary and secondary schools have met to discuss the challenges facing public education.

These educational leaders have now formed the **Learning First Alliance** – a newly incorporated coalition whose twelve member organizations will work together strategically and aggressively to improve student learning in America's public schools.

The goals of this unprecedented collaboration are threefold:

To ensure that high academic expectations are held for all students

To ensure a positive and supportive place of learning for all students

To engage parents and community members in helping students achieve high academic expectations

## MEMBERS

The Learning First Alliance is comprised of twelve educational organizations that have come together to unleash the joint strength and commitment of more than ten million Americans working to improve student learning – including our nation's teachers, principals, parents, teacher educators, local and state school boards, school administrators, curriculum experts, and national, state and community leaders.

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for Teacher Education

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### **WHY A NEW NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO HELP PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Since the publication of *A Nation At Risk* in 1983 focused public attention on the importance of education to the future of America, new energy and resources have led to improvements throughout our education system. High school students are taking harder courses. The dropout rate, particularly for African American students, has decreased, while graduation requirements have become tougher. Americans are attaining more years of education than ever before, and achievement has increased in many subjects.

Yet improvements in student learning have not come far or fast enough for all students. Only through the combined efforts of our education system, along with parents and community members, can we make it possible for all children to fulfill their potential.

The Learning First Alliance brings together for the first time leaders of all parts of the education system—institutions that have worked individually to improve public education, but that have not always coordinated their efforts.

The Alliance had its beginnings as the Forum of Educational Organization Leaders established a quarter of a century ago. The Forum provided opportunities for the leaders of the major educational organizations engaged in supporting public education to meet and engage in substantive discussions with leading thinkers in the field of education.

In 1996, members of the Forum voted to restructure the organization and formally incorporate the group. Concerned that America's schools today faced unprecedented challenges, member organizations believed they could provide stronger leadership for public education by working more closely together on a common agenda.

While member organizations participate in many partnerships and coalitions, the new Alliance represents a unique effort by the principal national organizations responsible for providing and governing public education to focus on the core issues facing America's schools.

## WHAT THE ALLIANCE WILL DO

*The Learning First Alliance represents an unprecedented, self-initiated commitment by its members to work in concert to improve student learning. The Alliance will strive to deliver a common message to all parts of the education system, align priorities, share and disseminate success stories, encourage collaboration at every level, and work toward long-term systemic change based on solid research evidence.*

The presidents and executive directors of the Alliance's member organizations meet regularly to advance strategic efforts to improve public education. The Alliance organizations represent more than 10 million individuals engaged in providing, governing, and improving America's public schools at the local, state, and national levels. It is the only national coalition focused on improving elementary and secondary education in public schools to involve both the CEOs and elected leadership of the major national organizations representing parents, teachers, curriculum specialists, school principals, administrators, school boards, state boards of education, chief state school officers, and education schools, colleges, and departments.

The Learning First Alliance is dedicated to learning from the people who provide public education on a daily basis, the members of our affiliate organizations. These teachers, principals, administrators, school board members, and parents see the challenges public education faces every day. Many have found ways to successfully raise student achievement. Others know change is needed, but don't know where to start reform in a system that seems bigger than they are.

The Alliance is dedicated to helping those institutions and people who provide and govern public education work together to find the best way to respond to local challenges. To aid in this effort the Alliance member organizations will share research results relating to instructional methods, management practices, and educational policy. In addition, the Alliance will publicize successful collaborations that lead to increased student achievement, study them to identify effective practices, and seek to replicate them.

The first major activity of the Alliance will be the convening of the Learning First Alliance Summit on Reading and Math to be held in Washington, D.C. in early 1998.

## LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE GOALS

The Alliance works with and through its member organizations to achieve the following three goals, which are central to its mission of improving student learning in America's public elementary and secondary schools.

*First, the Alliance will work with and through its member organizations to ensure that high academic expectations are held for all students.*

States and school districts should have high academic standards for their core subjects. These standards should lay out clearly and specifically what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level, sequence of grade levels, or other specific checkpoints. This specificity will ensure that educators, students, parents, policymakers, school board members, and the public all share an understanding of, and commitment to, what is expected of students. The standards of local school districts should be consistent with those set by states, but need not be limited to them.

To provide all students the opportunity to achieve these standards, policies, curriculum, instruction, materials, facilities, technologies, educator preparation, continuing professional development, assessment, school structures, and delivery systems must be in alignment. Students who need extra help should receive timely and intensive interventions, and students should not be promoted to higher levels of schooling without meeting the standards. Student assessments should enhance learning and enable all stakeholders to know whether students are meeting the standards.

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All adults working within schools should model behaviors that demonstrate the highest levels of respect, responsibility, character, and civility. Further, school districts and individual schools should adopt and enforce clear codes of conduct for all students so that school personnel, students, and parents will share an understanding of the behavior that is expected of students and the consequences for not meeting those expectations. Appropriate and rigorous alternative placements should be available to address the needs of students whose behavior is disruptive to the education of other students. Teachers and other school personnel should be trained in effective classroom management practices.

Finally, all those involved with the delivery of public education should become advocates on behalf of youth to promote safe, healthy, orderly, and supportive communities beyond the walls of the school.

*Third, the Alliance works with and through its member organizations to engage parents and all community members in helping students achieve high academic expectations.*

States and local school districts should maximize the ways that parents and community members can participate in schools. For example, community members and parents should participate in the development of standards, programs, and assessments that affect students' academic performance. Families should be encouraged to participate in all facets of the child's education. Public schools should develop partnerships with businesses, civic organizations, and other community groups to promote adult participation in children's education and to maximize the resources available to support learning. Teachers and other school personnel should be trained in effective practices that support parenting and parent involvement.

The Alliance believes that communities should hold schools accountable for the achievement of these three goals.

## **THE LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE SUMMIT ON READING AND MATH**

In January, 1998, the Alliance will jointly convene the leadership of the member organizations for the first time in history to participate in a national summit focused on improving reading and math achievement.

The Alliance has chosen to focus on reading and math, initially, because they are core subjects and failure to master them in the early grades limits achievement in almost every other subject. In addition to approving and announcing specific strategies to improve reading and math achievement, the Alliance will also make a joint statement about the importance of working together for the benefit of children.

To develop an action agenda that will be announced at the Summit, the Alliance is assembling advisory groups with expertise in reading and math. Each Alliance member organization will be expected to make specific commitments for new activities directed at improving reading and math achievement, consistent with the agreed-upon strategies.

The Alliance will design the summit to have broad-based and lasting effects. Member organizations represent more than 10 million individuals including parents, teachers, curriculum specialists, school principals, administrators, school board and state board of education members, chief state school officers, and teacher educators. Frequently Alliance members are approached to partner with other organizations because of their leadership of the various subparts of the education system and their ability to disseminate information broadly. The Alliance will use all of its communication networks to convey a sense of urgency around the issue of school improvement and help practitioners understand what works and why, based on solid research evidence. In addition, the Alliance will hold each of its member groups accountable for following through on their commitments to further the reading and math action plans. And Alliance leadership will work toward the development, in future years, of state and local partnerships that mirror the Alliance membership. In this way, the Learning First Alliance can leverage coordinated efforts to improve the education of children in virtually every school district in the country.

## ALLIANCE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

### *American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)*

AACTE is a national, voluntary organization of colleges and universities with undergraduate and/or graduate programs to prepare professional educators. Located in the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C., the Association is the major catalyst for initiative and innovation in teacher education. The Association's more than 700 member institutions include private, state, and municipal colleges and universities and together, they graduate more than 85 percent of new school personnel entering the profession each year in the United States. In addition, AACTE has a small but growing number of affiliate members, including state departments of education, educational laboratories and centers, and foreign institutions and organizations.

#### Alliance representatives:

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(202) 293-2450  
[www.aacte.org](http://www.aacte.org)

Dr. Dale Andersen  
President

Dr. Allen D. Glenn  
President-Elect

### *American Association of School Administrators (AASA)*

Founded in 1865, AASA is one of the most long-standing professional education leadership organizations in the nation. Its more than 15,000 members, located across North America and in other parts of the world, include top systems-wide school leaders such as superintendents, other central office administrators, principals, and board members, as well as professors and others who prepare educators for leadership positions. AASA's four major focus areas include: (1) improving the condition of children and youth; (2) preparing schools and school systems for the 21st century; (3) connecting schools and communities; and (4) enhancing the quality and effectiveness of school leaders.

#### Alliance representatives:

Dr. Paul D. Houston  
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[www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org)

Dr. Karl V. Hertz  
President

Mr. Daniel Domenech  
President-Elect

*American Federation of Teachers (AFT)*

The AFT is a 950,000-member union of public and professional employees, including public and private school teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel, higher education faculty and professionals, employees of state and local governments, nurses and health professionals. The union operates at the local, state, and national levels to represent its members, strengthen public education and its members' professions, and address issues that affect all children and working Americans.

Alliance representatives:

Ms. Sandra Feldman  
President  
American Federation of Teachers  
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www.aft.org

Ms. Antonia Cortese  
AFT Vice President

Ms. Ruth Wattenberg  
Director, Educational Issues

*Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)*

ASCD is an international, nonprofit, nonpartisan education association committed to the mission of forging covenants in teaching and learning for the success of all learners. Founded in 1943, ASCD provides professional development in curriculum and supervision; initiates and supports activities to provide educational equity for all students; and serves as a world-class leader in education information services. ASCD's 198,000 members, who reside in more than 100 countries, include superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers, professors of education, school board members, students, and parents who share a commitment to quality education and a belief that all students can learn in a well-planned educational program.

Alliance representatives:

Dr. Gene Carter  
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(703) 549-9110  
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Dr. Edward Hall  
President

*Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)*

The Council of Chief State School Officers is a nationwide, nonprofit organization composed of public officials who lead the departments responsible for elementary and secondary education in the states, the U.S. extra-state jurisdictions, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity. CCSSO assists the chiefs in preparing policies and represents them on nationwide policies for education. CCSSO assists state agencies in developing leadership capacity through government and foundation funded projects.

Alliance representatives:

Mr. Gordon Ambach  
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CCSSO  
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Dr. Henry R. Marockie  
President

Dr. Wilmer S. Cody  
President Elect

*Education Commission of the States (ECS)*

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is a nonprofit, nationwide compact of states and territories formed to help governors, state legislators, state education officials and others develop policies to improve the quality of education. The ECS mission is to help state leaders develop and carry out policies that promote improved performance of the education system as reflected in increased learning by all citizens. For over 25 years, ECS has reached out to thousands of people in literally every state, role group and major education organization, enabling them to analyze all sides of an issue and, more important, bring together people with diverse perspectives to work with and learn from one another.

Alliance representatives:

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www.ecs.org

Mr. Chris Pipho  
ECS Senior Fellow

*National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)*

NASBE is a nonprofit, private association that represents state and territorial boards of education. Our principal objectives include strengthening state leaders in educational policy making; promoting excellence in the education of all students; advocating equality of access to educational opportunity; and assuring continued citizen support for public education. The association services over 600 individuals, including members of state boards, state board attorneys, and state board executive secretaries. These members are responsible for the educational interests of more than forty million students in public schools and more than three million students in post-secondary institutions.

Alliance representatives:

Ms. Brenda Lilienthal Welburn  
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NASBE  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-4000  
www.nasbe.org

Mr. Thomas Davis  
President

*National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)*

Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals serves 27,000 elementary and middle school principals nationwide. Dedicated to educational excellence and high professional standards among K-8 educators, NAESP works at the national, state and local levels to help school leaders provide the best possible education to the children and youth in their schools. Headquartered in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, NAESP has an affiliate in every state and the District of Columbia.

Alliance representatives:

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Ms. Yvonne G. Allen  
President

Ms. Jill Eaton  
President-Elect

*National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)*

Established in 1916, NASSP has grown to over 42,000 members and is now the nation's largest school leadership organization for middle level and high school administrators. Its membership includes principals, assistant superintendents, deans of students, and college and university professors. NASSP focuses on professional development programs to help school leaders become more proficient in serving America's middle level and high school students. NASSP does this through a national convention, multi-day single topic seminars, workshops, and publications. The Association also promotes the interest of education in Congress, conducts research, and provides consultant services to members. The NASSP founded and administers the National Honor Society and the National Association of Student Councils with a combined membership of over two million students.

Alliance representatives:

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NASSP  
1904 Association Drive  
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[www.nassp.org](http://www.nassp.org)

Dr. W. Cecil Short  
President

Mr. Doug Fagan  
President-Elect

*National School Boards Association (NSBA)*

The National School Boards Association is the nationwide advocacy organization for public school governance. NSBA's mission is to foster excellence and equity in public elementary and secondary education in the United States through local school board leadership. Founded in 1940, NSBA is a not-for-profit federation of state associations of school boards across the United States and the school boards of the District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NSBA represents the nation's 95,000 school board members. These board members govern 14,722 local school districts that serve more than 45 million public school students -- approximately 90 percent of all elementary and secondary school students in the nation.

Alliance representatives:

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Mr. William B. Ingram  
President

Ms. Barbara M. Wheeler  
President-Elect

*National PTA*

The National PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer association in the United States, working exclusively on behalf of children and youth for over 100 years. The National PTA consists of more than 6.5 million members, over 26,000 local units in 50 states, District of Columbia, Pacific Congress, and European Congress (serving Department of Defense schools overseas). Members include parents, teachers, students, and other child advocates.

Alliance representatives:

Ms. Pamela Grotz  
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Ms. Lois Jean White  
President

Ms. Ginny Markell  
President-Elect

*National Education Association (NEA)*

NEA is America's oldest and largest organization committed to advancing the cause of public education. Founded in 1857 in Philadelphia and now headquartered in Washington, D.C., NEA has 2.3 million members who work at every level of education, from pre-school to university graduate programs. NEA has affiliates in every state as well as in over 13,000 local communities across the United States.

Alliance representatives:

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