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# THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

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Dear CAS Principals,

You are probably aware that the Connecticut Legislature recently enacted Public Act No. 15-238 "AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS ASSESSMENTS". This act establishes a Mastery Examination Committee which includes members from the CSDE, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, CABE, ACPSS, CAS, CT PTA, CEA, AFT and four other persons selected by the Commissioner of Education. Cathy Hill, Principal at Jefferson Elementary School in New Britain, and I represent CAS and, most importantly, the voice of school leaders on the committee.

The Mastery Examination Committee is charged with examining the following:

1. the impact of the state-wide mastery examination on teaching, students and student learning time;
2. the administration of the state-wide mastery examination on computers or other devices;
3. whether the state-wide mastery examination is an appropriate student assessment;
4. whether the state-wide mastery examination responds to student needs, offers accommodations for students with disabilities and students who are ELL, informs teachers of student progress, aligns with curriculum standards adopted by the State Board of Education, and complies with requirements of federal law;
5. the feasibility of decreasing the amount of time required to complete the state-wide mastery examination by using alternative formats or alternative methods of delivery; and
6. ways to facilitate timely communication between the State Board of Education and local and regional boards of education with regard to the state-wide mastery examination.

The committee must submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly by February 15, 2016 and a final report by January 15, 2017.

As you can see, this is an ambitious charge, but so very important!

The committee believes it is extremely important to solicit feedback relative to these charges from practitioners outside of the committee. Therefore, we are inviting you to respond to a handful of questions on the following page. We hope that you take some time to respond as feedback from people doing the work in schools is arguably the most important information guiding the work of the committee. PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Karissa Niehoff  
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Cathy Hill  
Principal, Jefferson Elementary School