



## NEWS RELEASE

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## KASA Joins Forces with Kentucky Center for School Safety in 2016

**(FRANKFORT, Ky.—)** The Kentucky Association of School Administrators is celebrating Kentucky Safe Schools Week (October 18-24, 2015) by announcing its expanded partnership with the Kentucky Center for School Safety.

This month, KCSS announced it will combine its annual conference with KASA's Annual Leadership Institute, July 20-22, 2016, the largest gathering of school leaders across the commonwealth. This three-day conference brings to the table experts in school law, education leadership, student achievement, curriculum and assessment. Now, school safety offerings will also be on deck.

Bringing the KCSS event to the KASA Annual Leadership Institute will expand session offerings for administrators in all roles, allow members to gain critical school safety knowledge they can align with their back-to-school activities, and alleviate strain on school travel and training budgets by combining two needed leadership development opportunities for the cost of attending one.

"We are thrilled to be able to partner on this work, which will expand our programming and allow us to thread school safety more deeply into our offerings. Increasingly, school safety is embedded in all that we do, in finance, in law, and in communication. This kind of collaboration will enable our school leaders to collaborate and innovate as they draw school safety practices into all areas of school administration," KASA Deputy Director Rhonda Caldwell said.

As part of this partnership, the KCSS sessions will create a focus strand of sessions designed for all school leaders. In particular, principals, school resource officers, state police, and others leading school safety efforts in our schools will benefit from the school safety strand of sessions. This year's theme: *Cross the Line: Commit. Inspire. Achieve.*, will drive offerings in all strands. Sessions will include topics on:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Internet safety
- Building security practices and emergency situations such as bomb threats
- Discipline for students engaging in electronic misbehavior, including sexting, terroristic threatening, and harassment
- Proactive protection of students from human trafficking and sexual predators online
- Best practices for safety in after school events (concerts, sporting events, etc.)

The partnership stems from a two-year focus by KASA on school safety. During this time, KASA formed a school safety council, which meets regularly to discuss school safety issues and identify needs for school administrators in ensuring their schools are safe. As part of this work, the council issues the Safety Focus 5, an e-newsletter to nearly 3,000 school administrators statewide with five of the most relevant safety issues of the month.

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators is the largest school administrators group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,000 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups.

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