



American Association of School Administrators

May 6, 2005

Representative Steny Hoyer
1705 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Hoyer:

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) is pleased to endorse the Full Service Community Schools Act of 2005.

It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child, but we rarely ask, 'what does it take to raise a village?' It takes the leadership of schools who can work with communities to create a web of support around children and families. This is why AASA enthusiastically supports your initiative as an important way to help get children ready for school and stay ready to learn.

AASA, founded in 1865, is the professional association for over 14,000 school system leaders. As such, we have unparalleled access to this nation's public school gatekeepers. Our mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders. As this statement serves our membership, it also suggests that we support the profession by providing school leaders a cadre of resources, including system leadership and support, policy research and analysis, direct contact through children's initiatives, a legislative voice, professional development and advocacy on the issues about which they care deeply. Community schools is one such issue.

AASA is standing up for public education to make sure that schools continue to fill their role as a cornerstone of the common good, providing the foundation for the civic society that is critical to our democracy. Involving community in this role is critical, which is why we look forward to working with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul D. Houston'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul D. Houston
Executive Director