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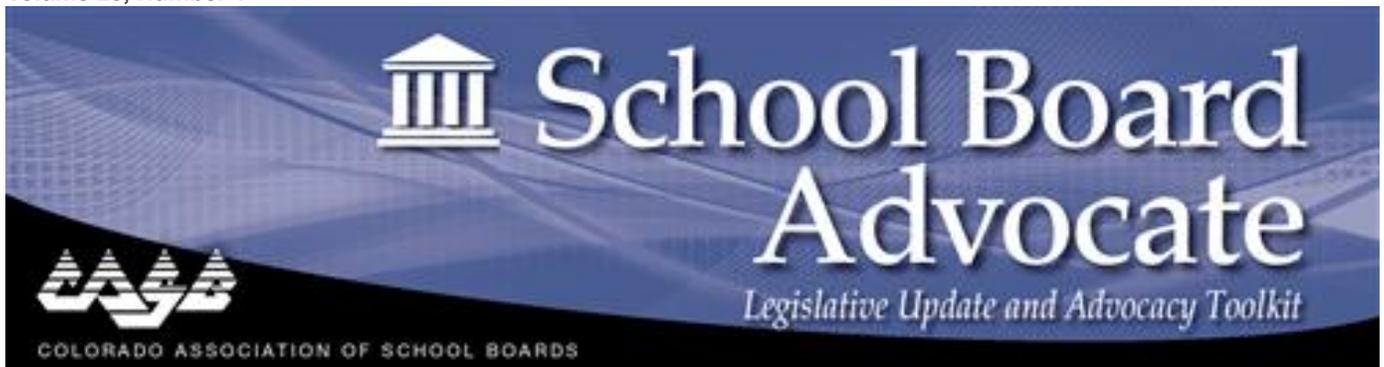


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School Board Advocate: January 13, 2017

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Happy New Year! Welcome, 2017!

January gets a bad reputation. Sure, December is a hard act to follow, with all of the glitz and glamor of the holidays, but the first month of the new year has plenty to offer. There's the National Western Stock Show for starters, great snow for skiing – and the Colorado General Assembly convenes for its 120-day annual legislative ritual.

This year, the advocacy team is making some significant changes in how CASB keeps members informed and up to date on all of the happenings under the Gold Dome. School board members are the best advocates for Colorado students, and in order to be

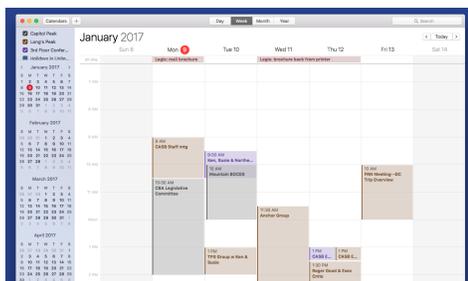
the best at your job, you need information and resources to keep you informed.



A Well-Turned Phrase

Many of you know Todd Engdahl from his reporting at The Denver Post and most recently at Chalkbeat Colorado. Todd has decided to head out on his own and start Capitol Editorial Services. One of his first clients is the Colorado Association of School Boards. Todd will assist with coverage at the capitol and help break down the complex and often-confusing legislative story lines. We will use Todd's reporting in a variety of ways, but make sure to follow Todd on Twitter [@toddengdahl](https://twitter.com/toddengdahl) for on-the-spot updates. Between Todd and Matt Cook ([@CASBMattCook](https://twitter.com/CASBMattCook)), the capitol will be covered like a blanket.

You may see some writing from Todd in School Board Advocate. The Advocate will be published twice a month, on the second and fourth Fridays, during the General Assembly session – January to May. During the off-season, the Advocate will come out once a month, on the fourth Friday. The Advocate will not be published in July or December.



Agendas and Calendars

Over the course of the 12 CASB Regional Meetings during the fall, numerous board members said they would like to engage their boards in more discussion of legislative efforts, but they weren't sure where to start. Well, the CASB advocacy team has a deal for you!

The first week of each month during the session, we will send boards a brief agenda item on a particular legislative topic along with some background information. This "agenda" information is intended to be a stand-alone item that local boards can insert directly into their meeting agendas. After your discussions, we may circle back to get information and comments that will help us sharpen our discussions with legislators on topics important to school boards across the state.

More in-depth information on bills will be available through the new-and-improved CASB Bill Tracker. The Bill Tracker is one-stop shopping for all the information you need, including:

- Bill Sponsors
- Bill Numbers
- Committee Assignments
- Fiscal Notes

The Bill Tracker is available on the [CASB website](https://www.casb.org).

Want even more legislative info? Join a conference call with CASB staff members once a month for the latest news, tidbits and hot topics. You may even hear from a legislator or perhaps a member of the CASB Board of Directors. Calls will start at 6 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:

- Feb. 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 16 – Legislative Wrap-Up

To join the call, dial 877-240-8466 and then enter 81159703423#. If you want to use the latest technology like all the cool kids, go to www.join.me/mattcookcasb

CASB at the Capitol

For several years now, CASB's Days at the Capitol have provided an invaluable opportunity for board members to meet elected state officials and share stories of their districts. For the 2017 legislative session, CASB will once again be inviting our members to come advocate for their students. Speaking of students, CASB staff has set aside two days just for student groups.

We all know that we are stronger together than we can ever be alone. With that in mind, some CASB regions will be teaming up to talk about public education in Colorado. Of course, all CASB members are welcome to attend any or all of the CASB Days at the Capitol.

2017 CASB Days at the Capitol Schedule – Listed by CASB Regions

Members are invited and encouraged to attend ANY date below. Register at www.casb.org.

Student Day Wed., February 15, 2017

8&11 Wednesday, March 29, 2017

6 Wednesday, March 1, 2017

3&9 Wednesday, April 5, 2017

1&2 Wednesday, March 8, 2017

4&12 Wednesday, April 12, 2017

7&10 Wednesday, March 15, 2017

5 Wednesday, April 19, 2017*

Student Day Wed., March 22, 2017

* includes Large Districts



A Challenge

To wrap up this edition of School Board Advocate, we want to issue a challenge. The CASB advocacy team would like to have a strong CASB presence at every regularly scheduled House and Senate Education Committee meeting. Sounds like a big task, but I know our dedicated school board members are up to the task!

Actually, the process is pretty simple. Coming to Denver on an errand? Take a few minutes and stop by a committee hearing. Aunt Mabel needs a ride to the airport? Schedule some time at the capitol on your way home. You will see first-hand the important policy discussions that are shaping Colorado public education. [View the schedule and sign up.](#)

Coming soon

CASB's Winter Legislative Conference will take place Feb. 23-24 at the Brown Palace Hotel and Holiday Inn Express. This is the gathering that gets you up to speed and involved in state and federal legislative efforts important to public education in Colorado. [View the agenda and speakers.](#) [Register today!](#)

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