

Leading Ahead: Preparing for the Year to Come

A NASS Leadership Lens

Quote:

“Good leaders prepare. Great leaders anticipate.”

— Unknown

Narrative Reflection:

As the school year continues at full pace, March invites leaders to lift their gaze. Preparing for the year ahead—staffing, priorities, structures, and resources—is not about predicting perfectly, but about reducing urgency and increasing clarity.

Superintendents who plan early create space for thoughtful decision-making rather than reactive responses. Engaging leaders in forward thinking builds shared ownership and confidence. Preparation also signals stability; it reassures others that leadership is attending not only to today’s needs, but to tomorrow’s possibilities.

Looking ahead is not a distraction from the present—it is a responsibility of leadership.


Leadership Toolkit: Preparing with Intention

- Identify likely pressure points early
- Engage leaders in forward planning
- Communicate emerging priorities clearly

Reflection Prompt:

What decision you make this month will most shape the year ahead?

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