

Outgoing President's Message

NJASA President Dr. Rick Falkenstein
2025-2026



Looking Back, Leading Forward

Dear Members,

As I prepare to conclude my term as your President, I find myself reflecting on nearly two decades of membership within this incredible association. While I have been a member of NJASA for almost 20 years, my time as president has fundamentally changed my perspective. I never truly realized the sheer volume of support and advocacy the association provides for school leaders. It is one thing to read about our mission to influence educational policy and regulations, but it is another to see firsthand the commitment from our members is unwavering and deeper than I ever imagined.

Our advocacy has taken many forms, from formal legislative sessions to the collaborative spirit of our committees, such as those that produced the NJASA Ad Hoc School Safety & Security Report and the Educator Recruitment and Retention Committee Report. We have also looked toward the future by launching the NJASA AI Community. These initiatives demonstrate that regardless of the topic, our members and central office team are always ready to lean in and solve problems together.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you, the members, and to the dedicated NJASA staff for your work. I have learned that while we simply cannot control the “wild cards” that define our professional landscape such as sudden state aid losses or increase in medical costs; however, we can control how we support one another. Our strength lies in the fact that we do not have to face these “uncharted territories” alone. It has been the honor of my professional life to lead this association as we navigate the road ahead as one.

Sincerely,

Rick Falkenstein
NJASA President 2025-2026