

## *President's Message*

**NJASA President Dr. Rick Falkenstein  
2025-2026**



### ***Happy Holidays***

The holiday season is a time filled with family traditions, reflection, and moments that bring us together. Amid the hustle and bustle, it's a perfect opportunity to pause and remember what truly matters in our lives. Personally, family and health remains at the forefront of what is important to me.

Professionally, the colleagues that have supported me and guided me over the years is something I am forever grateful for. The support and wisdom I gain from my colleagues is something I value and benefit from every single day. Early in my career I operated in a fishbowl. I made excuses that I didn't have time to connect or I was embarrassed to ask for help. As we move into the new year, I ask you to consider adding "connect more with my colleagues" to your 2026 resolutions.

With the upcoming changes at the federal and state levels, budget season, Mikie Sherrill's Transition Action Team, and the final days of a lame-duck session in Trenton, there are certainly lots of challenges ahead of us. While we can't always predict what comes next, the process we go through is certainly within our control. For me, I have always found it better to tackle these challenges with my colleagues than to try to shoulder the burden alone.

I am confident that, through our continued collaboration, New Jersey will remain a national leader in public education.

Happy New Year

Rick Falkenstein