

CASE Member Benefits

CASE membership brings you many benefits ranging from advocacy in state and federal education policy decisions, to opportunities for sharpening your leadership skills, to free legal assistance. You'll find support for meeting state and federal accountability requirements, networking venues, discounted products and services, and much more.

1. Advocacy

CASE members are represented by a veteran lobbyist that is highly respected by members of the Colorado legislature.

The CASE Lobbyist works diligently to educate lawmakers and advocate on behalf of school leaders and the children of Colorado whom they serve. In addition, CASE is at the table with the governor's office, the State Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Education when key policy discussions occur. Advocacy efforts include:

- A daily presence by the CASE Lobbyist at the state capitol when the General Assembly is in session (January – May);
- Testimony at education committee meetings on selected issues;
- **BriefCASE**, an electronic publication that features breaking news about school finance, state budget, new laws, and commentary about education issues in the Colorado legislature;
- Access to the **Colorado Capitol Watch** legislative bill tracker, which provides opportunities for easier, personalized communications with elected officials;
- The CASE Legislative Ad Hoc Committee and Legislative Committee, composed of CASE members, which meet regularly to discuss policy issues that pertain to members and provide direction to CASE Lobbyist;
- Weekly (often daily) updates on the CASE website during the session about Colorado legislative activity;
- Representation at key meetings and events with education policy decision makers; and
- New CASE Legislative issues blogs are launched periodically during legislative sessions.

2. Professional Learning

CASE membership brings you high-quality professional learning opportunities at affordable member rates.

CASE staff has expertise in how to build organizational capacity through professional learning. CASE also maintains connections with other organizations that provide professional learning. Opportunities include:

- **CASE Education Leadership Convention** – An annual summer convention in a mountain setting that features the latest information about teaching, learning, and leadership from nationally respected education experts You'll have the opportunity to share statewide best practices and network with other school leaders.
- **CASE Winter Leadership Conference** – An annual mid-year conference with a focus on education policy, student achievement, and accountability
- **Workshops, retreats, and special sessions** – A variety of workshops offered year round to address member-identified professional learning needs and hot topics of interest to school leaders
- **eLearning Programs** – On-demand webinars, event recordings and resources, and online courses

CASE Member Benefits, continued

3. Professional Liability Insurance

As a Full Active or Associate Member of CASE, a \$100,000 Professional Liability policy is included as a benefit of your membership.

Your plan will provide coverage for claims brought at any time, as long as the occurrence that resulted in litigation occurred while your Educator's Professional Liability policy was in effect. You'll be covered even if you've dropped the coverage, as long as your coverage was in force when the incident happened.

The In-dues Plan:

- Pays up to \$100,000 for damages arising from professional liability lawsuits.
- Pays defense costs in addition to the liability limit for professional liability lawsuits.
- Covers claims brought at any time, as long as the act or omission that resulted in the claim occurred while your policy was in effect.
- Provides coverage as long as you remain a CASE member in good standing and CASE continues to offer this professional liability plan as an in-dues member benefit.

What's Covered?

The in-dues plan protects you against a broad range of exposures associated with your educational duties, such as:

- Injuries to students under your supervision
- Improper placement of students
- Hiring unqualified people
- Defamation
- Failure to educate
- Failure to promote students or grant credit
- Violation of student civil rights
- Improper methods employed in instruction, counseling, research design, etc.
- Negative consequences in implementing the recommendations of research studies

After a \$100 deductible, the plan also pays 90 percent of your attorney's fees if you:

- Are **sued by an employee** you supervise regarding a covered personnel matter (limit of \$5,000 per claim, \$5,000 aggregate per policy period).
- Are **accused of sexual misconduct**, provided you are found not guilty or the charges are dismissed (limit of \$15,000 per claim, per policy period, and a \$15,000 aggregate per policy period).
- **Face criminal charges arising out of corporal punishment**, provided you are found not guilty or the charges are dismissed (limit of \$10,000 per claim, per policy period).

Optional Upgrades:

You also can **upgrade** your coverage to up to \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000. (Upgrades are processed directly through Forrest T. Jones @FTJ.com.) All upgrade plans provide:

- After a \$100 deductible, the plan also pays 90 percent of your attorney's fees if you:
 - Are **accused of sexual misconduct**, provided you are found not guilty or the charges are dismissed (limit of \$50,000 per claim / \$100,000 aggregate per policy period).
 - Are named in a lawsuit seeking non-monetary relief (limit of \$35,000 per claim, per policy period).

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- If you are threatened with a job action, such as termination, suspension, reassignment or demotion, the plan's Job Protection Benefits will pay:
 - Up to \$500 for your initial consultation with an attorney
 - Up to \$750 of the cost of having an attorney represent you at a formal hearing of a school board or other authority
 - Up to \$4,000 for legal fees, subject to a \$100 deductible, if you decide to sue because of the job action and the judgment in the suit is in your favor. Up to \$750 is available to you regardless of the suit's outcome.

Eligibility:

You must be a Full Active or Associate Member in good standing of CASE, a W-2 employee of a school, college or university, and the job must be your main occupation. School board members and owners of private schools are not eligible. If you are an educator in private practice or an independent contractor, you are not eligible for this program.