School safety and student well-being are complicated issues, but we believe that the nation must find research-based policy solutions that lead to meaningful change.

Leveraging work that has been done by organizations—education-related and otherwise—NAESP continues to work to identify and elevate strategies, policy recommendations, and solutions to improve school safety and access to mental health services in schools. Our goal is to unite all groups in support of policy development and implementation to ensure a comprehensive approach, and improve alignment of federal, state, and local policies.

NAESP has developed resources to foster school safety initiatives. Specifically, NAESP is working to:

- Disseminate comprehensive, schoolwide approaches to improving school safety and mental health services.
- Advance solutions that best support effective design and implementation of programs that facilitate a multi-tiered system of supports.
- Push for alignment of federal, state, and district efforts to support the development and implementation of research-based, comprehensive school safety plans.
- Identify best practices and strategies in support of blending state and federal funding streams in education and mental health services.

It is our sincere hope that through genuine collaboration, we can improve awareness of all efforts, break down silos, and work collectively to advance a shared mission that moves the needle meaningfully on school safety.

L. Earl Franks, Ed.D., CAE, is executive director of NAESP.