

# LaSalle School

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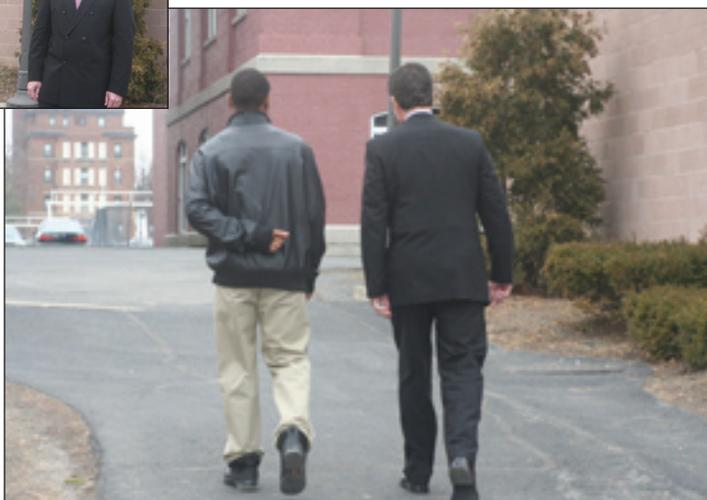
## Building relationships near and far: LaSalle meets with key State and International figures

Senator John J. Flanagan is the Chairman of New York State's Senate Standing Committee on Education. Although extremely busy, he came to LaSalle School to learn more about State Education Department approved schools that operate on the campuses of day and residential treatment centers in New York.

What started out as a routine tour of the campus, beginning in the wing of LaSalle's self-contained classrooms, grew more and more personal as the Senator interacted with staff and students. First, he was able to observe the small classes designed to address the emotional and educational needs of students at LaSalle. Later, he participated with students and the instructor in a discussion in one of the science labs. Then he heard from a member of the faculty at the University at Albany about the collaborative research work and field placements underway at LaSalle. Stopping in the technology classrooms and the music studios, he continued to engage the staff and the students, asking them to explain what they were doing, what they found to be challenging, what they might change if they could change one thing, and what they enjoyed the most.



Robert, president of LaSalle's Student Senate takes a walk with State Senate Education Chair John J. Flanagan during the Senator's visit at LaSalle School.



Assisting in the tour was Robert, President of LaSalle's Student Senate. Robert is in his Senior year and the Senator was especially interested in hearing his perspective on his experiences as a youth in foster care and how he has been able to progress during placement at LaSalle. He listened carefully as Robert answered his questions about what he has achieved at LaSalle, and his hopes for the years ahead.

For some time, Senator Flanagan has demonstrated a special interest in state approved schools

like LaSalle. Using his position in the Senate, he has skillfully brought attention to the unique challenges these schools face, and has called upon the Education Department and the Division of the Budget to collaborate in an effort to resolve the key issues. By visiting LaSalle, he was able to see first hand the impact that efforts like his, in combination with quality services, can have on the lives of an often forgotten group of New York's youth at a point when they otherwise face circumstances with little opportunity or hope.

Thank you Senator!



University at Albany officials arranged for representatives from the Singapore Ministry charged with setting policy for child welfare and residential treatment centers to visit LaSalle. Here they are pictured after discussing best practices with LaSalle staff.