
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AESA Honors Michael Fine with 2026 Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

October 13, 2026 – The Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) is pleased to announce Michael Fine, longtime Chief Executive Officer of California’s Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), as the recipient of the 2026 AESA Outstanding Individual Achievement Award.

The Outstanding Individual Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose leadership, service and accomplishments have made a significant contribution to educational service agencies and the communities they serve.

Throughout a career spanning more than 30 years in public education, Fine has been recognized for his leadership in school finance and his work supporting local educational agencies across California. As CEO of FCMAT, he helped school districts navigate complex fiscal challenges while keeping the needs of students at the center of the work.

Before leading FCMAT, Fine served as the organization’s chief administrative officer and held leadership positions with Riverside Unified School District and Newport-Mesa Unified School District. His career also includes extensive work with policymakers in Sacramento on issues affecting California’s TK-12 students.

His statewide impact was also recently recognized by California County Superintendents, which presented him with its 2026 Legacy Award, created to honor a colleague whose work advances the mission and vision of county offices with an impact extending beyond any one county.

“Michael’s career reflects the very best of public service: thoughtful leadership, deep expertise and an unwavering commitment to helping educational organizations succeed,” said AESA Executive Director Joan Wade. “His influence reaches far beyond any single district or agency. We are proud to recognize his remarkable contributions with the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award.”

Fine will be formally recognized during the 2026 AESA Annual Conference & Expo, December 2-4 in Orlando, Florida.

About the Association of Educational Service Agencies

AESA is the national organization representing Educational Service Agencies and regional educational organizations across the United States.

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