



The Consortium of State School Boards Association  
Weekly Education Report  
**LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON**

**AUGUST 22, 2022**

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*Please note, the House and Senate are in recess from August through Labor Day and as a result, the COSSBA Education Report will be shorter than normal. The full COSSBA Education Report will resume in September after Congress returns.*

The COSSBA Education Report, a weekly publication, provides an executive summary of public policy issues affecting American K-12 education and employment. **Please use the bookmarks below to navigate to your area of interest:**

1. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**
  - **Funding**
    - **ED to provide over \$6M in funds to support school safety**  
The Department of Education (ED) announced that it will award more than \$6 million to local educational agencies (LEAs) impacted by community violence through Project Prevent Grant Program funds.
  - **Child Nutrition**
    - **News: USDA Issues Helpful Reminders for Your School Lunch Prep**  
*U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)* (August 17, 2022)
    - **Webinar: Back to School Success with Team Nutrition's Menu Planning Tools and Resources**  
*U.S. Department of Agriculture* (August 17, 2022)  
This informational webinar will highlight Team Nutrition's many tools and resources to enhance your knowledge of school menu planning and school nutrition operations.
2. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **CDC releases Monkeypox guidance for schools, education programs:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a new resource for educators related to monkeypox that answers frequently asked questions about

monkeypox for administrators and staff of K-12 schools, early care and education (ECE) programs, camps, and other community settings serving children or adolescents. The CDC will also hold two informational webinars on Monday, August 22. [Join them here.](#)

### 3. New Publications

- **Preparing Young Children for School: Educator’s Practice Guide**  
*Institute of Education Sciences* (August, 2022)  
This practice guide distills contemporary early childhood and preschool education research into seven easily comprehensible and practical recommendations. The guidance will help to prepare young children to benefit from the learning opportunities they will encounter in school.
- **Survey of America’s School Leaders and High School Students**  
*National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP)* (August, 2022)  
This nationally representative survey explores the opinions of principals, assistant principals, and high school students on the challenges of leading and learning at school as well as their thoughts on mental health, school safety, and how to better meet the needs of all learners.
- **Evidence-Based Practices for Recovery and Renewal**  
*Institute of Education Sciences* (August, 2022)  
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) launched a new site to help states, districts, schools and institutions of higher education in their use of evidence-based practices in this period of recovery and renewal to improve outcomes for all learners. These checklist planning tools will help educators and administrators better implement programming based on evidence.
- **FAQ: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund**  
*U.S. Department of Education* (August, 2022)  
The Department of Education (ED) issued an FAQ supplement on using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds, which outlines allowable uses of ESSER and GEER funds by State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs).
- **Fact Sheet: Back to School 2022: Giving Every School the Tools to Prevent COVID-19 Spread and Stay Safely Open All Year Long**  
*The White House* (August, 2022)  
This new fact sheet lays out key guidance and supports for protecting students, employees, and school communities this upcoming school year.
- **Safeguarding Students’ Civil Rights, Promoting Education Excellence**  
*U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR)* (July, 2022)  
This report covers topics including the application of Federal civil rights laws to both remote and in-person learning during the pandemic; addressing the obligations of schools, public agencies, and postsecondary institutions to students and children with long COVID; and clarifying OCR’s interpretation of schools’ existing obligations under the 2020 amendments to the Department’s Title IX regulations.

#### 4. In the News

- **Parents and Teachers Optimistic for New School Year**  
*The Washington Post* (August 20, 2022)
- **Kids Are at Low Risk for Monkeypox, but Schools Can Take Precautions, CDC Says**  
*Chalkbeat* (August 19, 2022)
- **Youth Mental Health Is in Crisis. Are Schools Doing Enough?**  
*AP News* (August 17, 2022)
- **USDA Issues Helpful Reminders for Your School Lunch Prep**  
*U.S. Department of Agriculture* (August 17, 2022)

#### 5. Weekly Calendar - What's coming up this week?

- **Webinar: Back to School Blitz: Strategies for Improving Attendance in the First 3 Months of School**

*Thursday, August 25, 2022*

The Department of Education will hold a webinar on strategies to improve attendance in the first three months of school. This is an opportunity to hear from experts on chronic absenteeism and proven strategies to help avoid it.

#### 6. Future Hearings & Events

- **Webinar: Back to School Success with Team Nutrition's Menu Planning Tools and Resources**

*Wednesday, August 31, 2022*

This informational webinar will highlight Team Nutrition's many tools and resources to enhance your knowledge of school menu planning and school nutrition operations.

#### 7. About BPAG

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### 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

#### **FUNDING**

#### **ED TO PROVIDE OVER \$6M IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL SAFETY**

On August 19, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** that it will award more than \$6 million to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) impacted by community violence through Project Prevent Grant Program funds. This funding will provide schools the necessary resources to combat community violence and ensure a safe learning environment for students, families, and educators. Specifically, these grants will help LEAs increase student access to mental health services; support conflict management programs; and implement other community- and school-

based strategies to help prevent community violence and to mitigate the impacts of exposure to community violence.

## **CHILD NUTRITION**

### **USDA Issues Helpful Reminders for Your School Lunch Prep**

*U.S. Department Of Agriculture* (August 17, 2022)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published advice on school lunches to help parents and caregivers safely prepare to-go meals.

### **Webinar: Back to School Success with Team Nutrition’s Menu Planning Tools and Resources** (Wednesday, August 31, 2022)

This informational webinar will highlight Team Nutrition’s many tools and resources to enhance your knowledge of school menu planning and school nutrition operations.

**Time:** 2:00 P.M. ET

**Register Here.**

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## **2. In Brief – Last Week in Washington**

### **CDC RELEASES MONKEYPOX GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS, EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

On August 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **released** a new resource for educators related to monkeypox. The new resource page answers frequently asked questions about monkeypox for administrators and staff of K-12 schools, early care and education (ECE) programs, camps, and other community settings serving children or adolescents (for example, sports leagues and after-school programs). However, the agency asserts that at this time, the risk of monkeypox to children and adolescents in the U.S. is low, and this information may be helpful to parents who have questions about monkeypox as well.

**CDC will host two webinars** to share information on the resource and take questions:

- Monday, August 22 at 2pm ET: Webinar for **early childhood education (ECE) partners.** **Join here.**
- Monday, August 22 at 3pm ET: Webinar for **K-12 educators will be held from 3:00 - 3:30 PM ET.** **Join here.**

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## **3. New Publications**

### **Preparing Young Children for School: Educator’s Practice Guide**

*Institute of Education Sciences* (August, 2022)

This practice guide, developed in conjunction with an expert academic **panel**, distills contemporary early childhood and preschool education research into seven easily

comprehensible and practical **recommendations**. The guidance will help to prepare young children to benefit from the learning opportunities they will encounter in school.

### **Survey of America’s School Leaders and High School Students**

*National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASSP) (August, 2022)*

This nationally representative survey, designed by school leaders and students, explores the opinions of principals, assistant principals, and high school students on the challenges of leading and learning at school as well as their thoughts on mental health, school safety, and how to better meet the needs of all learners.

### **Evidence-Based Practices for Recovery and Renewal**

*Institute of Education Sciences (August, 2022)*

The Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES) launched a new site, **Evidence-Based Tools for Renewal and Recovery**, to help states, districts, schools and institutions of higher education in their use of evidence-based practices during this period of recovery and renewal to improve outcomes for all learners, especially those that education systems have historically underserved. The two newest resources support **Out of School Time** (OST) learning and **Data Science**. These checklist planning tools will help educators and administrators better implement programming based on evidence.

### **FAQ: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund**

*U.S. Department of Education (August, 2022)*

The Department of Education (ED) issued an FAQ supplement on using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds, which outlines allowable uses of ESSER and GEER funds by State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs). This FAQ is intended to supplement the questions in the **ESSER and GEER use of funds guidance** published in May 2021.

### **Fact Sheet: Back to School 2022: Giving Every School the Tools to Prevent COVID-19 Spread and Stay Safely Open All Year Long**

*The White House (August, 2022)*

This new White House fact sheet lays out key guidance and supports for protecting students, employees, and school communities this upcoming school year, including: Using COVID-19 vaccines and boosters as the first line of defense to protect in-person learning; providing robust access to COVID-19 testing at schools to help detect infection early; and improving indoor air quality throughout school buildings.

### **Safeguarding Students’ civil Rights, Promoting Educational Excellence**

*U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) (July, 2022)*

This report covers topics including the application of Federal civil rights laws to both remote and in-person learning during the pandemic; addressing the obligations of schools, public agencies, and postsecondary institutions to students and children with long COVID; and clarifying OCR’s interpretation of schools’ existing obligations under the 2020 amendments to the Department’s Title IX regulations.

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#### 4. In the News

##### Parents and Teachers Cautiously Optimistic for New School Year

*The Washington Post* (August 20, 2022)

##### Kids Are at Low Risk for Monkeypox, but Schools Can Take Precautions, CDC Says

*Chalkbeat* (August 19, 2022)

##### Youth Mental Health Is in Crisis. Are Schools Doing Enough?

*AP News* (August 17, 2022)

##### USDA Issues Helpful Reminders for Your School Lunch Prep

*U.S. Department of Agriculture* (August 17, 2022)

*If you have trouble accessing any of these articles, please reach out to [Sarah Lamson](#) for a PDF copy.*

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### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

#### 5. Weekly Calendar

**Key:** **E&S** – Elementary & Secondary; **H** – Higher Education; **D** – Disability Policy

##### **Thursday, August 25, 2022**

##### **Webinar: Back to School Blitz: Strategies for Improving Attendance in the First 3 Months of School (E&S)**

**Subject:** The U.S. Department of Education invites you and to join U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten, Hedy N. Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works, as well as parent and student voices for a webinar on strategies to improve attendance in the first three months of school. This is an opportunity to hear from experts on chronic absenteeism and proven strategies to help avoid it.

**Participants:** U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten and Hedy N. Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. ET

**Contact:** Register [here.](#)

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#### 6. Future Hearings and Events

##### **Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

##### **Webinar: Back to School Success with Team Nutrition's Menu Planning Tools and Resources (E&S)**

**Subject:** This informational webinar will highlight Team Nutrition's many tools and resources to enhance your knowledge of school menu planning and school nutrition operations. Have your mobile devices handy as we take a tour of resources using hands-on activities to showcase the

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) digital resources, Child Nutrition (CN) labels, Product Formulation Statement (PFS), USDA standardized recipes, USDA-approved software, and more.

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. ET

**Contact:** Register [here](#).

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#### 7. About BPAG

**Bose Public Affairs Group** is a full-service government affairs and public relations consulting firm that has built a reputation for producing results. We partner with clients committed to excellence in education and other social services to achieve policy and advocacy success by:

- leveraging our expertise and passion;
- strategizing intelligent solutions; and,
- Creating meaningful impact.

Our team includes long-term insiders in education policy from Pre-K through higher education, innovative thinkers and savvy strategists that provide a comprehensive array of customized client services. We have the knowledge, skills, and relationships that are necessary for successful advocacy at all levels. From grassroots to grass tops and everything in between, our broad-based legislative practice approaches every project with the same degree of determination and professionalism. BPAG provides expertise in a variety of services:

- Government Relations
- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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