



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

OCTOBER 24, 2022

Jared Solomon, Editor

jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com

Della Cronin, Editor

dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com

Bob Moran, Editor

rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com

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**

- **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment:** On Thursday, October 27, BetterLesson will hold a webinar alongside experienced educators for innovative professional learning strategies that help accelerate new teachers' growth without adding to their already full plate.

2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**

- **ED Announces Event Series to Boost Literacy, Math Outcomes:** On Tuesday, October 18, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** that it will host a series of five sessions focused on strategies and programs to boost student literacy and math outcomes. According to ED, the sessions will highlight best practices to help states, districts, and schools improve learning outcomes for students, particularly in literacy and mathematics.
- **School Boards Examine Influence of Politics on Prioritizing Equity:** On Wednesday, October 19, the Progressive Policy Institute's Reinventing America's Schools Project and The 74 cohosted a virtual School Board Roundtable on the Politics of Education. Elected school board members from key battleground states discussed their experiences around educational equity and how politics plays a role in their state and district.

- **Superintendents Discuss Promoting Health, Safety, Student Success:** On Thursday, October 20, the School Superintendents Association (AASA) hosted a webinar titled, “Healthy Schools: An Imperative or Impossibility?” Participants discussed ways stakeholders can take action at the federal, state, and district level to advance the mental, physical, social and emotional wellbeing of student and educators at schools.

4. **New Publications**

- **2022 Mathematics and Reading Report Cards At Grades 4 and 8**
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) – The Nation’s Report Card (October, 2022)
This year’s NAEP results show that compared to 2019 (before the pandemic), average scores declined in both reading and math and grades four and eight; average scores declined for most states in both subjects and grades; and students’ confidence in their mathematics and reading skills declined.
- **Empty Seats at Powerful Tables: The State of School Boards in America**
School Board Partners (October, 2022)
School Board Partners conducted a large-scale, first-of-its-kind survey of elected school board members from across the country. The analysis focuses on education leaders of color. A deeper understanding of their perspectives, priorities, experiences, and challenges is critical to recruiting more diverse candidates and ultimately driving school boards to address structural racism in education, the report asserts.
- **Making the Connection: Using K-12 Performance Assessments for College Placement and Advising**
Complete College America (October, 2022)
To identify issues that need to be considered when developing policy on the use of K–12 performance assessments in college advising and placement, Reimagining College Access and Complete College America partnered to form a cross-sector task force. *Making the Connection* summarizes the results of the task force’s work and next steps to cement policy recommendations for this promising, innovative alternative for college placement and advising.

5. **In the News**

- **Test Scores Show Historic COVID Setbacks for Kids Across US**
U.S. News (October 24, 2022)
- **Democrats See Opening to Neutralize GOP Education Messaging**
Politico (October 19, 2022)
- **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Donates \$1B to Prioritize Math Education**
Fox Business (October 19, 2022)
- **What the White House ‘AI Bill of Rights’ Means for Education**
EdSurge (October 14, 2022)

6. **Weekly Calendar - What’s coming up this week?**

- **Webinar: Release of the 2022 NAEP Scores:** The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) will host a webinar and live stream event to examine the results from the 2022 reading and math assessments at grade 4 and 8.
Monday, October 24
- **Webinar: Kindergarten’s Important Role in Students’ Education:** New America will hold a virtual discussion on "A Pivotal Year: Kindergarten's Important Role in Students' Education."
Tuesday, October 26
- **Webinar: The State of American Education:** The Hill will hold an event on “The State of American Education.”
Wednesday, October 26
- **Webinar: Best Resources Available to Address Learning Loss and Recovery:** The U.S. Department of Education will host the first in a series of webinars to address academic recovery in literacy and math, with a focus on accessing the best resources available to address learning loss and recovery.
Wednesday, October 26
- **Event: Forum on Science and Technology Policy:** The American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its 2022 forum on science and technology policy, October 25-26. Sessions include “K-12 STEM Education at a Breaking Point, Political Pressures on STEM Education,” and others.
Wednesday, October 26
- **Event: The State of American Education:** The Atlantic will hold a summit on education featuring Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.
Thursday, October 27
- **Webinar: Cultivating Long Term Success and Retention for New Teachers and Paraprofessionals:** Join BetterLesson alongside experienced educators for innovative professional learning strategies that help accelerate new teachers' growth without adding to their already full plate.
Thursday, October 27

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Webinar: Expanding Access to STEM Education and Opportunities:** Washington Post Live will hold a virtual discussion on "Expanding access to STEM education and opportunities."
Thursday, November 3
- **Webinar: Best Practices and Research on Rigorous Instruction for All Students in Literacy and Mathematics:** The U.S. Department of Education will host another of their series of webinars to address academic recovery in literacy in math, with a focus on accessing the best resources available to address learning loss and recovery.
Thursday, November 10

8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**

- The Senate and House are in recess until Monday, November 14

9. **Bills to Watch**

- **H.R. 7309:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022

10. [Important U.S. House and Senate Links](#)

11. [About BPAG](#)

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

On Thursday, October 27, BetterLesson will hold a webinar alongside experienced educators for innovative professional learning strategies that help accelerate new teachers' growth without adding to their already full plate. More details [here](#).

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

With Election Day only weeks away, there isn't much news coming from Washington, DC. The political news is currently from the campaign trail—where most Members of the House and Senate, their proxies, and challengers are spending all their time.

Perhaps the biggest education policy news is that the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has [made available](#) the application for its one-time, targeted student loan debt relief. Depending on their income, borrowers can have up to \$10,000 of their debt forgiven on federal loans made before July 1 of this year, or up to \$20,000 if they received a Pell Grant. The site went live on October 14 in a “beta” version, and over 8 million people applied before it officially launched last week. ED is accepting applications with plans to cancel the debt within 4-6 weeks of receiving an application. Welcome news for many, although the initiative continues to weather criticisms. In fact, some Republican-led states, including Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Iowa, filed a lawsuit trying to stop the program. Last week, that lawsuit [was dismissed](#), because, according to the Judge, the states had not overcome the procedural threshold known as standing, which requires that plaintiffs show that a policy is causing them direct and traceable harm. However, as of late Friday, [a federal appeals court issued a “stay order”](#) blocking the Biden administration from relieving any debt, while the court considers an appeal filing from those six states.

Today, results from the “main” 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) were released. (NAEP long-term results [were released](#) earlier this year and suggested that gains in reading and math were erased during the pandemic.) What came today examines fourth- and eighth-grade scores at the national level, but also state by state results, as well as those for [two-dozen large urban districts](#). Educators braced for more bad news, and they were right to do so. This year's [results](#) show that compared to 2019 (before the pandemic), average scores declined in both subjects and grades; average scores declined for most states in both subjects and grades; and students' confidence in their mathematics and reading skills declined.

How does this impact State School Boards Associations?

President Biden's federal loan forgiveness plan includes long-term changes to the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF) program that will make it easier for borrowers working in public

service to gain loan forgiveness. Changes to the PSLF program might benefit K-12 educators that borrowed to fund their university-based training.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides important information about student achievement and learning experiences in various subjects. Also known as The Nation's Report Card, NAEP has provided meaningful results to improve education policy and practice since 1969. Results are available for the nation, states, and 27 urban districts. Furthermore, NAEP is a congressionally mandated program that is overseen and administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences. The National Assessment Governing Board and the National Center for Education Statistics will host an event today for the release of the 2022 NAEP Mathematics and Reading results. Details can be found in the Weekly Calendar section.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED ANNOUNCES EVENT SERIES TO BOOST LITERACY, MATH OUTCOMES

On Tuesday, October 18, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** that it will host a series of five sessions focused on strategies and programs to boost student literacy and math outcomes. According to ED, the sessions will highlight best practices to help states, districts, and schools improve learning outcomes for students, particularly in literacy and mathematics. The series seeks to build engagement from the field; identify collaboration opportunities among research, practice, and funding; and lift best practices and resources for practitioners and policymakers to take action to address learning loss and academic recovery. “I’m pleased to announce a new expert-led speaker series that will equip educators, school leaders, and district administrators with the latest information on the science of learning and the most promising tools for accelerating academic recovery, so that they can raise the bar to support our students and level up their skills in the critical areas of math and reading,” said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The “Raising the Bar” series will kick off on October 26, then will occur monthly through February. More details on the series and specific session topics can be found [here](#).

SCHOOL BOARDS EXAMINE INFLUENCE OF POLITICS ON PRIORITIZING EQUITY

On Wednesday, October 19, the Progressive Policy Institute's Reinventing America's Schools Project and The 74 cohosted a virtual School Board Roundtable on the Politics of Education. Participants included Curtis Valentine, co-director of Reinventing America's Schools Project; Ray Freeman, Ohio City School District; Beatriz Lebron, Public Schools Board of Education in Rochester, NY; Ty Jones, Texas Public Schools Board of Education; Erika Mitchell, Georgia Public Schools Board of Education; and Kevin Mahnken, senior writer for The 74, a nonprofit news organization covering American education. These elected school board members from key battleground states discussed their experiences around educational equity and how politics plays a role in their state and district. Mahnken spoke to his reporting with The 74 and its reflection of how the two major political parties address education policy. At the national level, Mahnken explained, “we’re seeing that parents, and adults generally, are expressing much less satisfaction than they have historically with American schools generally, and in local schools particularly.” “We’re approaching record lows,” he added. Mahnken also referenced a [PDK poll](#) on the public's attitudes toward public schools that found that a majority of respondents did not trust their local school teachers to handle instruction on social and emotional learning, race, media

literacy, the history of racism, and on gender and sex. This narrative prompted Freeman to engage significantly more with parents – “We have to do more as school board members, to engage with parents and meet them where they are,” he asserted. Lebron shared a similar sentiment, but emphasized that it is equally important to build strong relationships with school staff and faculty. She described how she intentionally went out of her way to build relationships with teachers since they are such an integral part of a child’s life. Competition with public charter schools was also addressed. “We have to look at our competitive advantage,” Mitchell stated. In Mitchell’s district specifically, she referenced two STEM and STEAM programs that attract families and students through direct engagement with the families. Jones closed the event with a final thought on keeping traditional public schools competitive. Maintaining a competitive advantage, Jones stated, “is about focusing on education, giving kids the opportunities to learn, and also creating an atmosphere and climate for our teachers to grow as well.” An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

SUPERINTENDENTS DISCUSS PROMOTING HEALTH, SAFETY, STUDENT SUCCESS

On Thursday, October 20, the School Superintendents Association (AASA) hosted a webinar titled, “Healthy Schools: An Imperative or Impossibility?” The event featured Sasha Pudelski, director of advocacy at AASA; Elizabeth Cook, senior director at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation; and Stephanie Domain, director of child safety, health and wellness at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Pudelski opened the event by introducing the [10 Year Roadmap for Healthy Schools](#) (Roadmap), which contains a set of principles designed for stakeholders to take action at the federal, state, and district level. Pudelski emphasized the importance of a healthy school, explaining that it “recognizes and advances the mental, physical, social and emotional wellbeing of students and educators as a fundamental strategy to effective learning.” Domain elaborated on how AAP has implemented the Roadmap through their [TEAMS](#) project, which aims to improve school health by leveraging partnerships at the local and state level to provide student health services in schools. The program offers several components: Online training, which includes working with partners and implementing successful programs to ensure that a school’s specific healthcare needs are met; a Health Services Assessment Tool for School (HATS) that measures the quality of the school’s health services and identifies its strengths and weaknesses; and a networking collective that allows members and stakeholders to facilitate relationships with local, state, and national partners. Cook discussed supporting the health needs of the educational workforce by cultivating staff wellbeing through policies, practices, systems, and positive environments. She highlighted that educators are experiencing high rates of stress and that building in tools like policy mapping, a strategy that takes the values and impact goals of educators and compares them to the current policies in place, allows schools to identify how their policies may need to change in order to align with the identified values and goals of educators. An archived recording of the webinar will be posted [here](#).

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4. New Publications

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both subjects and grades; and students' confidence in their mathematics and reading skills declined.

Empty Seats at Powerful Tables: The State of School Boards in America

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Making the Connection: Using K-12 Performance Assessments for College Placement and Advising

Complete College America (October, 2022)

To identify issues that need to be considered when developing policy on the use of K–12 performance assessments in college advising and placement, Reimagining College Access and Complete College America partnered to form a cross-sector task force. Making the Connection summarizes the results of the task force's work and next steps to cement policy recommendations for this promising, innovative alternative for college placement and advising.

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5. In the News

Test Scores Show Historic COVID Setbacks for Kids Across US

U.S. News (October 24, 2022)

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Politico (October 19, 2022)

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Donates \$1B to Prioritize Math Education

Fox Business (October 19, 2022)

What the White House 'AI Bill of Rights' Means for Education

EdSurge (October 14, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Monday, October 24, 2022

Webinar: Release of the 2022 NAEP Scores (E&S)

Subject: The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) will host a webinar and live stream event to examine the results from the 2022 reading and math assessments at grade 4 and 8.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Webinar: Kindergarten's Important Role in Students' Education (E&S)

Subject: New America will hold a virtual discussion on "A Pivotal Year: Kindergarten's Important Role in Students' Education."

Participants: Swati Adarkar, deputy assistant secretary for policy and early learning, U.S. Department of Education; Laura Bornfreund, senior fellow and adviser on early and elementary education, New America; Ryan Lee-James, chief academic officer, Atlanta Speech School; and Ellen Galinsky, founder, Mind in the Making.

Time/Location: 3:30 – 4:30 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Webinar: The State of American Education (E&S, H)

Subject: The Hill will hold an event on "The State of American Education."

Participants: Penny Schwinn, commissioner of education, Tennessee; Bob Cusack, editor-in-chief, The Hill; Kirsten Baesler, superintendent, North Dakota; Governor Spencer Cox (R-UT); Shalinee Sharma, CEO, Zearn; Caitlin Sullivan, executive director, Leading Now; Roberto Rodriguez, assistant secretary of education, U.S. Department of Education; and more.

Time/Location: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; The Showroom, 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Best Resources Available to Address Learning Loss and Recovery (E&S)

Subject: The U.S. Department of Education will host the first in a series of webinars to address academic recovery in literacy and math, with a focus on accessing the best resources available to address learning loss and recovery.

Time/Location: 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Event: Forum on Science and Technology Policy (E&S, H)

Subject: The American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its 2022 forum on science and technology policy, October 25-26. Sessions include "K-12 STEM Education at a Breaking Point, Political Pressures on STEM Education," and others.

Time and location: 12:00 p.m.; AAAS, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, October 27, 2022

Event: The State of American Education (E&S, H)

Subject: The Atlantic will hold a summit on education.

Participants: Miguel Cardona, secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Sameer Gadkaree, president, the Institute for College Access and Success; Mike Kincaid, associate administrator for STEM, NASA; Jeanette McCune, director of school and community programs, John F

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Adam Harris, staff writer, The Atlantic; Kate Julian, senior editor, The Atlantic; Martha Kanter, CEO, College Promise; and others.

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.; District Winery, 385 Water Street, SE, Washington, D.C

Registration: Register [here](#).

Cultivating Long Term Success and Retention for New Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Subject: Join BetterLesson alongside experienced educators for innovative professional learning strategies that help accelerate new teachers' growth without adding to their already full plate.

Participants: Meagan French, Director of Partnerships, BetterLesson; Karen Ocque, Director of Instruction and Pupil Services, LaFayette Central School District, LaFayette, New York; Jodie Verkey, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Seneca Falls School District, Seneca Falls, New York; Susan Bertrand, Assistant Superintendent, Longmeadow Public Schools, Longmeadow, Massachusetts; Jennifer Blossy, Principal on Special Assignment for the District, LaFayette Central School District, LaFayette, New York; Romain Bertrand, Senior Manager Solution Design, BetterLesson

Time: 2:00 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Webinar: Expanding Access to STEM Education and Opportunities (E&S, H)

Subject: Washington Post Live will hold a virtual discussion on "Expanding access to STEM education and opportunities."

Participants: Beth McQuiston, neurologist and medical director of diagnostics, Abbott; Jo Webber, CEO, STEMconnector; Sandra Cauffman, deputy director for astrophysics, NASA; and Valerie Sheares Ashby, president, University of Maryland - Baltimore County.

Time: 9:00 AM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Webinar: Best Practices and Research on Rigorous Instruction for all Students in Literacy and Mathematics (E&S)

Subject: : The U.S. Department of Education will host another of their series of webinars to address academic recovery in literacy and math, with a focus on accessing the best resources available to address learning loss and recovery.

Time: TBD

Registration: Register [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: In recess until Monday, November 14

House Floor: In recess until Monday, November 14

9. Bills to Watch

Authorization Bills

H.R. 7309 **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022**

Sponsor: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) (5/17/22 Passed by House; 4/5/22 Passed by House Ed and Labor Committee; 3/31/22 Introduced in House)

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10. Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events

[U.S. House and Senate 2022 Schedule](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions](#)

[U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor](#)

[U.S. Senate Budget Committee](#)

[U.S. House Budget Committee](#)

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

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11. 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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