



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

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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:**
 - **K-12 Education: Education Should Assess its Efforts to Address Teacher Shortages**
U.S. Government Accountability Office (October, 2022)
The Department of Education introduced its vision in the summer of 2022 for "Supporting and Elevating the Teaching Profession." The GAO found that the department's strategy doesn't have important elements—such as timeframes or performance measures—that would help ensure its efforts are working and recommended that the department develop a more comprehensive strategy to execute its vision.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Expert Panel Examines Solutions to Declining NAEP Scores:** The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) hosted an event to examine the 2022 reading and math assessment results from grades four and eight, also known as The Nation's Report Card.
 - **GAO Calls for More Coordinated Federal K-12 Cybersecurity Effort:** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report titled, "Critical

Infrastructure Protection: Additional Federal Coordination Is Needed to Enhance K-12 Cybersecurity.”

- **The Hill, Education Leaders Review State of American Education:** The Hill hosted an event titled, “The State of American Education,” where participants dove into the NAEP results, mental health, and supporting pathways to the teaching profession.
- **The Atlantic Holds Summit on Education with Secretary Cardona:** The Atlantic hosted an event titled, “Building a Fair Education System That Prepares Students for the Workforce.”

4. **New Publications**

- **2022 Mathematics and Reading Report Cards At Grades 4 and 8**
National Assessment of Educational Progress – The Nation’s Report Card (October, 2022)
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 to Make Schools Safer Without Additional Physical Security Measures**
Center for American Progress (October, 2022)
The report analyzes the newly enacted Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and how it can help schools and districts create safer learning environments without resorting to implementing measures that harden schools.

5. **In the News**

- **Schools Need More Money for Students’ Home Internet, Education Groups Tell Congress**
EducationWeek (October 28, 2022)
- **Timeline: A look at the Progression of Education Policy in US Politics**
USA Today (October 27, 2022)
- **Government Awarding \$1 Billion to Schools for Electric Buses**
U.S. News (October 26, 2022)
- **These 6 Charts Highlight COVID-19’s Impact on NAEP Scores**
K-12 Dive (October 25, 2022)
- **Schools Got \$122 Billion to Reopen Last Year, Most Has Not Been Used**
The Washington Post (October 24, 2022)
- **How Do Schools Come Back From ‘Catastrophic’ Drops in Math, Reading on NAEP?**
EducationWeek (October 24, 2022)

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

- **Webinar: 2023 State Sessions Look Ahead:** CQ Roll Call and FiscalNote will hold a webinar on "2023 State Sessions Look Ahead: The Biggest Issues You Need to Watch," focusing on state budgets, health care and education.
Wednesday, November 2

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Webinar: Supporting Local Learning Opportunities in the Post COVID-19 Era**: Brookings will host a webinar on "How can we support local learning priorities in the post-COVID-19 era?"
Monday, November 7
- **Webinar: Best Practices and Research on Rigorous Instruction for All Students in Literacy and Mathematics**: U.S. Department of Education will host the first in a 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
- **Webinar: Starting and Sustaining Community Schools**: Brookings will host a webinar on "How district leaders start and sustain community schools."
Monday, November 14

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

K-12 Education: Education Should Assess its Efforts to Address Teacher Shortages

U.S. Government Accountability Office (October, 2022)

The Department of Education introduced its vision in the summer of 2022 for "Supporting and Elevating the Teaching Profession." The GAO found that the department's strategy doesn't have important elements—such as timeframes or performance measures—that would help ensure its efforts are working and recommended that the department develop a more comprehensive strategy to execute its vision.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The education community braced itself last week for the latest **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results** -- the first since the start of the pandemic. As expected, the news wasn't good. Average scores in reading and math for both fourth- and eighth-grade students declined sharply since 2019. There were declines in reading by three points in both grades, with 37% of fourth-grade students and 30% of eighth-grade students nationally below the NAEP "Basic" level. Moreover, there were declines in math by five points in fourth-grade and eight points in eighth-grade, with 25% of fourth-grade students and 38% of eighth-grade students nationally below the NAEP "Basic" level.

“The results released today from the [NAEP] are appalling, unacceptable, and a reminder of the impact that this pandemic has had on our learners,” Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona declared in a statement. “The data also represent a call to action for the important work we must do now for our students -- especially those who have suffered the most during the pandemic. This once-in-a-generation virus upended our country in so many ways -- and our students cannot be the ones who sacrifice most now or in the long run. We must treat the task of catching our children up in reading and math with the urgency this moment demands.... It’s up to all of us to raise the bar in education.”

In a flurry of agency activity, the Department of Education issued an update to its guide on “Supporting Learning Acceleration with American Rescue Plan [ARP] Funds” and shared videos of principals (1, 2, and 3) utilizing ARP funding to address pandemic-related learning loss. Also, on Wednesday, the agency hosted the first of five sessions focused on key strategies and programs to boost literacy and math outcomes. The 2-hour session featured opening remarks from the Secretary, comments from House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA), and panel discussions among district and state leaders, as well as statistical and data experts.

While the results are disappointing, Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Alberto Carvalho pointed to the bright spot he argues his district offers. He shared with attendees that, of the 26 large urban districts where NAEP assessments were given, Los Angeles was the only one to make gains in eighth-grade reading. He attributed the improvements not to any “radical” approach, but to methodically deploying well-known strategies—offering a model for other districts to follow, he said, particularly those that are high-poverty and serve mostly students of color, like Los Angeles. He pointed to tutoring and summer learning as effective interventions, and said the district identified its 100 lowest-performing schools and gave them extra help while closely tracking attendance and progress.

The reaction from Administration officials support their assertions that the historical investments in education made over the course of the pandemic should be sustained. Comments at the Department-hosted session repeatedly referenced the opportunity for a “transformation” in K-12 education. The remarks suggest that the White House will continue to fight for increases in Title I and other programs in the pending FY 2023 spending bill, which is unlikely to be resolved before next year, and the FY 2024 request. Of course, their FY 2024 request will face Republican opposition. And, Republicans will almost certainly control at least one chamber of the Congress when it is presented.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

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 held an event on the release of the 2022 NAEP Mathematics and Reading results. See related article below.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

EXPERT PANEL EXAMINES SOLUTIONS TO DECLINING NAEP SCORES

On Monday, October 24, the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) hosted an event to examine the 2022 reading and math assessment results from grades four and eight, also known as [The Nation's Report Card](#). The event featured presentations by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); discussion between NCES Commissioner Peggy Carr and former Governing Board member Tonya Matthews; remarks on the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) results from the Council of the Great City Schools; and, a panel discussion between education policymakers, thought leaders, and researchers on understanding the results. The 2022 results showed steep declines in reading and math for fourth and eighth graders nationwide, in states, and among participating districts. “Of particular concerns were sliding scores across the country in math. No states or districts posted gains, and eighth-grade students dropped by an unprecedented eight points since 2019, the last time the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) was administered,” according to a NAGB [news release](#). “There is no understating the urgency that must be felt by every policymaker, every political leader, every teacher, every mom and dad... This is big stuff for America,” said Beverly Perdue, former governor of North Carolina and chair of the National Assessment Governing Board. Perdue and other participants discussed the path forward for U.S. students following these troubling results and noted that math instruction should be a major focus. President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics felt the same, saying, in part in [a statement](#), “Students need to spend more time on high-quality mathematics instruction—rigorous and engaging mathematics learning grounded in students making sense of the mathematics. This is the foundational work, at every grade, that supports students in continuing as active learners of mathematics.” The panel also discussed professional development for teachers, high-dosage tutoring, social and emotional learning interventions, and other strategies. “It’s a combined effect. It’s not just a single factor,” said Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Alberto Carvalho. A recording of the NAGB event is [here](#). In addition to NAGB’s event on Monday, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona spoke to reporters in-depth about the latest data; his full remarks can be found [here](#). In addition to Cardona’s statement, the Department of Education (ED) listed new actions it is taking to combat learning loss, including a five session series on strategies to boost literacy and math outcomes [announced](#) last week. The first was held Thursday. ED on Monday also issued an [updated guide](#) “further re-enforcing the key strategies districts and states should use to address learning loss and academic recovery.” Additional resources will be released in coming weeks.

GAO CALLS FOR MORE COORDINATED FEDERAL K-12 CYBERSECURITY EFFORT

On Monday, October 24, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) titled, “Critical Infrastructure Protection: Additional Federal Coordination Is Needed to Enhance K-12 Cybersecurity.” The agency found that the federal government is not doing enough to protect schools from cyber threats and provided recommendations that could improve how agencies coordinate cybersecurity assistance with K-12 schools. According to the report, more than 2.6 million students were affected by cyberattacks on their school systems between 2018 and 2021, and this year, 26 educational institutions were similarly impacted. These threats and attacks have

long-term effects, setting students back for weeks and aggravating learning loss, the GAO determined. Among its list of recommendations, the GAO suggested that Department of Education (ED) Secretary Miguel Cardona establish a cybersecurity council to address these concerns and prevent cyberattacks. The agency additionally recommended that ED obtain feedback to measure the effectiveness of K-12 cybersecurity-related products and coordinate with federal and nonfederal stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities for addressing cyber threats.

THE HILL, EDUCATION LEADERS REVIEW STATE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION

On Wednesday, October 26, The Hill hosted an event titled, “The State of American Education.” The event featured Utah Governor Spencer Cox; Kirsten Baesler, state school superintendent and administrator of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction; Roberto Rodriguez, assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy development at the U.S. Department of Education (ED); Penny Schwinn, Tennessee Commissioner of Education; Shalinee Sharma, CEO of Zearn; and Caitlin Sullivan, executive director of Leading Now. Rodriguez kicked off the event by addressing ED’s strategies to tackle the steep decline in achievement in math and science the country saw on the [2022 Nation’s Report Card](#) for students in grades four and eight. He suggested moving with great urgency towards recovery, through tailored instruction for students, high dosage tutoring, and investments in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in early childhood education to aid students in preparing and planning for the future. Rodriguez also discussed supporting new pathways into the teaching profession to attract and support a new generation of educators. Cox highlighted the positive implications that came from the pandemic, such as the creation and implementation of technology that provided innovative ways of instruction that is proving to be an effective way of learning for students, but voiced concern for the rise of mental health issues during the pandemic and stated that he is focused on creating legislation to aid schools in supporting students' needs and combatting this issue. On the topic of The Nation’s Report Card results, Schwinn suggested using federal dollars to invest in high quality teaching materials for literacy and math, tutoring efforts across schools districts, and increasing time - either during the school year or school day - to focus on recovery and acceleration. Finally, Sharma examined the need to increase recovery efforts for students that were affected most by the pandemic, particularly students of color, and stressed that investment in extended school time focus on high-quality acceleration plans that catch students up while simultaneously moving them forward. An archived recording of the event can be found [here](#).

THE ATLANTIC HOLDS SUMMIT ON EDUCATION WITH SECRETARY CARDONA

On Thursday, October 27, The Atlantic hosted an event titled, “Building a Fair Education System That Prepares Students for the Workforce.” The event featured U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona; Sameer Gadkaree, president of the Institute for College Access and Success; Kris Brown, deputy associate administrator of NASA’s Office of STEM Engagement; Jeanette McCune, director of school and community programs at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Kevin Dahil-Fuchel, executive director of Counseling In Schools; Mia Smith-Bynum, senior director for science, equity, diversity, and inclusion at the American Psychological Association; and Martha Kanter, CEO of College Promise. Secretary Cardona passionately highlighted the unprecedented investments made in education as a result of the pandemic and the need to capitalize on those investments to reverse its negative impact. American Rescue Plan dollars “serve as a great down payment for transformational change in

education to ensure that we have the best and highly trained workforce moving forward,” Cardona explained. Moreover, he discussed the challenges educators are facing and provided several solutions for attracting and retaining teachers, which include providing educators with agency and autonomy; creating better working conditions; developing opportunities for career advancement; and providing a competitive salary. Brown discussed transdisciplinary education and combining the arts and sciences in early childhood education and explained how NASA’s office of STEM Engagement is responsible for numerous educational efforts underway. She pointed towards a \$137 million investment to create STEM learning opportunities for students and educators, broaden student participation, and bolster efforts in K-12 STEM education. Kanter underscored positive implications of President Joe Biden’s student debt relief program, stating, “Millions of people will be allowed to move forward in their lives, especially black and brown folks.” Gadkaree talked about addressing college affordability more holistically and protecting students from fraud and abuse in the higher education sector. Dahil-Fuchel touched on student mental health and the challenges students face and explained that [Counseling in Schools](#) “sees schools as centers of healing and opportunities for hope.” Smith-Bynum shared similar sentiments saying, “Mental health issues typically start during the childhood years, [and] there’s a set of them, that if we are better at capturing them and treating them, we can reduce the chance of a lifetime of suffering.” An archived recording of the event can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

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National Assessment of Educational Progress – The Nation’s Report Card (October, 2022)

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 to Make Schools Safer Without Additional Physical Security Measures

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The report analyzes the newly enacted Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and how it can help schools and districts create safer learning environments without resorting to implementing measures that harden schools.

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Schools Need More Money for Students’ Home Internet, Education Groups Tell Congress

EducationWeek (October 38, 2022)

Timeline: A Look at the Progression of Education Policy in US Politics

USA Today (October 27, 2022)

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The Washington Post (October 24, 2022)

How Do Schools Come Back From ‘Catastrophic’ Drops in Math, Reading on NAEP?

EducationWeek (October 24, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Webinar: 2023 State Sessions Look Ahead (E&S, H)

Subject: CQ Roll Call and FiscalNote will hold a webinar on "2023 State Sessions Look Ahead: The Biggest Issues You Need to Watch," focusing on state budgets, health care and education.

Participants: Laura Morgan-Kessler, principal; Carpi & Clay Government Relations; Michael Reynold, senior vice president, McGuireWoods Consulting; Annika von Grey, consultant, FiscalNote Professional Services; and Charles Boruchowitz, government relations manager, Bentley Systems.

Time: 2:00 PM

Registration: Register [here.](#)

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Monday, November 7, 2022

Webinar: Supporting Local Learning Priorities in the Post COVID-19 Era (E&S)

Subject: Brookings will host a webinar on "How can we support local learning priorities in the post-COVID-19 era?"

Participants: Suman Sachdeva, education specialist, UNICEF Sierra Leone; Esteban Moctezuma, Mexican ambassador to the United States and former Mexican secretary of public education; Lynda Eunice Nakaibale, program associate, Raising Teenagers Uganda; and Rukmini Banerji, CEO, Pratham Education Foundation.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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: : U.S. Department of Education will host the first in a 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.

Time: TBD

Registration: Register [here.](#)

Monday, November 14, 2022

Webinar: Starting and Sustaining Community Schools (E&S)

Subject: Brookings will host a webinar on “How district leaders start and sustain community schools.”

Participants: Rebecca Winthrop, director, Center for Universal Education, Brookings; Reuben Jacobson, director, education policy and leadership program, American University; Adrienne Battle, director, Metro Nashville Public Schools, TN; Dan Domenech, executive director, AASA; Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, superintendent, Hartford Public Schools; and Ingrid Williams-Horton, director of community schools, Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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](#)

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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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