



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**
 - **Funding**
 - **States Receive Funding For 21st Century Community Learning Centers**: The Department of Education announced in a memo that states will begin receiving funding from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Expert Panel Examines Access To Stem Education And Opportunities**: The *Washington Post* hosted a webinar titled, “Expanding Access to STEM Education and Opportunities.” The event examined opening STEM pathways for low-income students and students of color through mentorship programs and expanded opportunities for advanced courses in school.
4. **New Publications**
 - **2022 Across the Aisle Report: What Voters and Parents Want in Education**
The Hunt Institute (November, 2022)

America's ever-changing educational landscape inspired The Hunt Institute to explore whether parent and voter priorities had shifted since their last report was published. In partnership with Lake Research Partners, The Hunt Institute conducted an updated nationwide survey of parents and voters to hear their concerns, gauge their priorities, and establish a path forward for transforming America's education system for the better.

5. **In the News**

- **Senate 'Odd Couple' Bernie Sanders and Rand Paul Poised to Lead Ed Committee**
The74 (November 6, 2022)
- **Fed's Education Research Board is Back. Here's Why It Matters**
Education Week (November 2, 2022)
- **NAEP Needs to Be Kept at Arm's Length From Politics**
Education Week (November 2, 2022)

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

- **Webinar: Supporting Local Learning Opportunities in the Post COVID-19 Era:** The Brookings Institute will host a webinar on "How can we support local learning priorities in the post-COVID-19 era?"
Monday, November 7
- **Webinar: Bringing the Science of Learning to Joyful Classroom Practice:** The Brookings Institute will host a "Making Schools Work: Bringing the Science of Learning to Joyful Classroom Practice."
Wednesday, November 8
- **Webinar: What will the Midterms Mean for Education:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "What Will the 2022 Midterm Elections Mean for Education?"
Wednesday, November 8
- **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

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Webinar: Starting and Sustaining Community Schools:** The Brookings Institute will host a webinar on "How district leaders start and sustain community schools."
Monday, November 14
- **Webinar: How Schools Are Helping Special Education Students Recover From the Pandemic:** Education Week will host a forum to focus on the pandemic's impact on populations of students who sometimes receive less attention in broader conversations about special education. Education Week staff will talk with experts and working educators about how the pandemic

complicated challenges for these students and what schools are doing to make up for lost time and services due to the pandemic.

Wednesday, November 16

8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
 - The House and Senate 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

FUNDING

STATES RECEIVE FUNDING FOR 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

On Thursday, October 28, the Department of Education (ED) announced in a [memo](#) that states will begin receiving funding from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) for the Nita M. Lowey [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#) (21st CCLC) program. The BSCA appropriated a total of \$50 million for the 21st CCLC, an evidenced-based out-of-school time program that helps improve school climate by creating safe environments. A new [report](#) from the Center for American Progress titled, “How To Make Schools Safer Without Additional Physical Security Measures,” notes that the new funding for the 21st CCLC program “specifically supports out-of-school learning time, such as afterschool, before-school, and summer learning experiences for students and communities,” and that a number of stakeholders are eligible for the funding, including community-based organizations, nonprofits, faith-based initiatives, state afterschool networks, and local education agencies. ED’s memo urges 21st CCLC subgrantees “to focus on grade-level appropriate practices supported by high-quality research” and lists examples of how the funds should be used, such as creating a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment; supporting family engagement and providing family supports; promoting strong connections between schools and 21st CCLC programs; implementing trauma-informed practices; establishing mentoring programs; and providing relevant and engaging learning experiences.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Election Day is tomorrow, and, if polls are to be trusted, it looks like the 118th Congress will have Republicans in charge in the House. They could be leading the Senate, too. Of course, the last few election cycles suggest that polls aren’t always accurate, and there are evolving factors that could affect predictions, but Democrats are understandably nervous.

If Republicans take charge of the House and Senate in January, Democrats will likely try to maximize the last few weeks of the 117th Congress. In recent days, there has been talk of using a [reconciliation](#) package to address the quick approaching debt limit for the Federal Government.

Such a strategy would arguably take the issue off the table before a change in leadership so that Republicans cannot use a “must-pass” debt ceiling increase as leverage to force votes on spending cuts. Raising the debt limit now would eliminate that leverage. A Republican-controlled House and Senate will be eager to develop their own reconciliation package in 2023 that would likely focus on spending cuts; they would like a bill to hit President Biden’s desk and force him to decide whether to sign or veto such a measure.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 spending bills remain outstanding, and it remains to be seen what might happen if both chambers flip. The current continuing resolution will expire in mid-December. While it was assumed Republicans would want to delay action on spending so that they might propose a smaller package early next year, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has recently suggested he’d like to be done with FY 2023 before the new Congress. Education advocates and others would much prefer to see an FY 2023 spending package that includes the increases proposed in the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill, which are higher than those developed by the Senate. Although either plan would almost certainly include higher spending levels for education than one developed by a Republican controlled Congress. The next few weeks will portend what might be possible.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The outcome of the November elections will ultimately determine the policy and fiscal agenda for Congress beginning in 2023 and could determine whether an FY 23 omnibus funding bill is passed in the lame duck session beginning after tomorrow’s elections. If the House switches to Republican leadership, and an omnibus spending package is pushed into the New Year, it is possible Republicans could cut domestic spending, including federal funding for schools and education programs. The debt ceiling fight could also lead to caps on federal discretionary spending, similar to those implemented in 2011, which could have serious effects on overall spending for education programs.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

EXPERT PANEL EXAMINES ACCESS TO STEM EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

On Tuesday, November 1, The *Washington Post* hosted a webinar titled, “Expanding Access to STEM Education and Opportunities.” The event featured Sandra Cauffman, deputy director of Astrophysics; Lu Duong, director of the United Negro College Fund’s Fund II Foundation STEM Scholars program; Nicol Turner Lee, director of the Center for Technology Innovation at the Brookings Institution; Valerie Sheares Ashby, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Beth McQuiston, neurologist & medical director at Abbott; Jo Webber, CEO of STEMconnector; and Jomi Babatunde-Omoya, a STEM Intern at Abbott. Lee began the event by pointing to the disparities that largely impacted low-income households and people of color during the pandemic, underscoring a lack of technological resources and exposure to school and community mentors. “Closing this divide is an issue of national and global competitiveness for the United States,” she explained. Lee voiced support for the development of a national mentorship ecosystem where students of color are exposed to professionals that resemble themselves and share similar experiences. Duong expressed a similar sentiment, stating, “What we know in lower-income areas is that students don’t have the access points to develop healthy, positive relationships with aspirational role models in STEM that look like them and come from

their own communities.” He highlighted the “systemic boundaries” that exist around STEM education, noting that lower-income areas are less likely to offer advanced mathematics and science courses, setting students back academically. Minority students that are provided with less educational resources and opportunities drop out of college within the first two years at higher rates than their peers, Duong further explained. He also expressed a need for greater investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Webber highlighted the benefits of hands-on learning exposure, while Ashby noted the crucial need for more inclusion and diversity at STEM institutions. “I need everybody, every institution to really support a diverse group of students in STEM. That is necessary,” Ashby stated. She added, “Diversity equals excellence.” An archived recording of the event can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

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5. In the News

Senate ‘Odd Couple’ Bernie Sanders and Rand Paul Poised to Lead Ed Committee

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Monday, November 7, 2022

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

Subject: The Brookings Institute 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 AM

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Webinar: Bringing the Science of Learning to Joyful Classroom Practice (E&S)

Subject: The Brookings Institute will host a “Making Schools Work: Bringing the Science of Learning to Joyful Classroom Practice.”

Participants: Carol Lautenbach, former assistant superintendent for teaching and learning design, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools; Pasi Sahlberg, educator; Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, fellow, Temple University's Department of Psychology; Robert Pianta, dean, University of Virginia's School of Education and Human Development; Angela Duckworth, professor of psychology, University of Pennsylvania; and Eduardo Escallon Largacha, founder, Spanish Center.

Time: 10:00 AM

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: What will the Midterms Mean for Education (E&S, H)

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on “What Will the 2022 Midterm Elections Mean for Education?”

Participants: Andy Rotherham, co-founder, Bellwether; Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies, AEI; Bethany Little, principal, EducationCounsel; Nat Malkus, deputy director of education policy studies, AEI; and Derrell Bradford, president, 50CAN.

Time: 10:00 AM

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 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: 2:00 PM

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Monday, November 14, 2022

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

Subject: The Brookings Institute 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 AM

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Webinar: How Schools Are Helping Special Education Students Recover From the Pandemic (E&S)

Subject: Education Week will host a forum to focus on the pandemic's impact on populations of students who sometimes receive less attention in broader conversations about special education. Education Week staff will talk with experts and working educators about how the pandemic complicated challenges for these students and what schools are doing to make up for lost time and services due to the pandemic.

Time: 2:00 PM

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

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