



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

**JANUARY 17, 2023**

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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**

• **Broadband Connectivity and E-Rate**

• **Emergency Connectivity Fund Receives No Additional Dollars for**

**FY23:** Over the holidays, Congress passed a \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which included substantial investments in education, children and families, but did not include funding for a program that provides students and teachers with internet access and digital devices for use in their homes.

• **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment**

• **ED ‘Raising the Bar’ Series Addresses Teacher Shortages and**

**Support:** Department of Education held the fourth installment of its “Raising the Bar” literacy and math series to address academic recovery. The session focused on addressing teacher shortages and support.

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

• **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

• **Foxx Named Chair of House Education and the Workforce Committee:**

Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) was chosen by her colleagues to chair the House Education and the Workforce Committee again. As Chair of the

Committee, the Congresswoman is sure to increase oversight of federal agencies in the Committee's purview.

- **Brookings Examines Future of U.S. Charter Schools:** Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution hosted an event to examine the future of charter schools. Panelists discussed recent studies conducted for the federal Charter School Program (CSP) – one on the **combined effects of charter schools** and another on how **charter authorizers shape equity**.
- **Bipartisan Policy Center Analyzes Early Care Education Systems:** On Thursday, January 11, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted a webinar titled, “Early Care and Education Systems: Revisiting a State-by-State Analysis.” The panel took an in-depth look at BPC’s report on **Integrated Efficient Early Care and Education Systems**.

#### 4. **New Publications**

- **Teacher Spending Accounts: Supporting All Teachers**  
*American Enterprise Institute* (January, 2023)  
AEI analyzes teacher spending accounts (TSAs), finding that they are the most important in-school factor for student success, yet we give teachers almost no say in education funding decisions and that TSAs prioritize individual teacher autonomy and expertise by recognizing that teachers are best positioned to tailor this “last mile” of education spending for the greatest impact.

#### 5. **In the News**

- **What Happened When a South Carolina City Embraced Career Education for all Its Students**  
*The Hechinger Report* (January 12, 2023)
- **Congress Got Rid of a Free Lunch for All Program. That Means Some Students Are Going Hungry**  
*USA Today* (January 11, 2023)

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

- **Webinar: How States and Districts are Strengthening Kindergarten:** New America will hold a virtual discussion with educators and state and local leaders from Alabama, Nevada, metro Atlanta, Boston and Concord, New Hampshire on "Learning How States, Districts and Educators are Strengthening Kindergarten."  
*Tuesday, January 17*
- **Webinar: Future of Teaching American History:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a webinar on "the Future of Teaching American History."  
*Wednesday, January 18*
- **Webinar: Rising Popularity of Youth Development Programs:** The Progressive Policy Institute will hold a virtual discussion on "New Skills for a New Economy: The Rising Importance and Popularity of Youth Career Development."  
*Thursday, January 19*

#### 7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Webinar: White House Black Initiative Lunch and Learn on Grant Opportunities**: Department of Education program staff in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will brief stakeholders about upcoming grant opportunities.  
*Tuesday, January 31*

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

- The House and Senate are in recess until Monday, January 23.

9. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**

10. **About BPAG**

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## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### **BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND E-RATE**

#### **EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND RECEIVES NO ADDITIONAL DOLLARS FOR FY23**

Over the holidays, Congress passed a \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which included substantial investments in education, children and families, but did not include funding for a program that provides students and teachers with internet access and digital devices for use in their homes. The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the increasing need for learning and teaching technology at home for students and teachers, which means there is an imperative need for reliable internet connectivity at the home. Even so, the Federal Communication Commission’s Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), established during the pandemic for remote learning through the American Rescue Plan, did not receive additional dollars to continue the program in this year’s federal funding, which education and digital equity advocates argue will make the “homework gap” worse. Advocates say that the ECF has been incredibly successful, and had even helped to close some of the existing homework gap, a term that refers to the lack of internet access that exists for many students across the United States. Although the ECF was not established as a permanent program, a long-term and sustainable solution is crucial for disadvantaged communities that have relied on this funding, EducationWeek [reports](#). “We’re at a crossroads now where Congress has identified a need and provided a temporary fix but [has] not at all advanced on a substantive or sustainable platform for continuing to address a continuing need,” said Noelle Ellerson Ng, the associate executive director of advocacy and governance for the School Superintendents Association. Advocates plan to work over the next year to pass either a stand-alone bill or a measure through fiscal year 2024 appropriations that would cement the program. Read more [here](#).

### **TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT**

#### **ED ‘RAISING THE BAR’ SERIES ADDRESSES TEACHER SHORTAGES AND SUPPORT**

On Thursday, January 12, the Department of Education held the fourth installment of its “Raising the Bar” literacy and math series to address academic recovery. The session focused on addressing teacher shortages and support. The event virtually convened several panels of experts from the field in order to build engagement from practitioners; identify collaboration opportunities among research, practice, and funding; and share best practices and resources for practitioners and policymakers to take action to address learning loss and academic recovery. The event opened with remarks from the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Linda Darling-Hammond.

Her remarks centered on teacher preparation, recruitment and retention. “We know that the single, most powerful predictor of achievement is the presence of very well-prepared and experienced teachers,” Darling-Hammond stated. Among the things that school districts and states can be doing, she continued, is creating “affordable and accessible pathways into the profession, service scholarships, loan forgiveness, and paying down student debt while college graduates are teaching.” She additionally touted the creation of teacher residencies. The first panel featured several field experts from the State of New Mexico, including New Mexico’s Secretary of Education, Dr. Kurt Steinhaus. The panel focused on teacher residency programs in order to identify relevant programs that might make sense in other districts and states, while the second panel extensively discussed investing in recruitment and retention and featured several education leaders and practitioners from across the country that elaborated on specific teacher supports that are advancing the educator workforce. The final panel analyzed best practices and research in diversifying the teacher workforce. Increasing the number of quality teacher preparation programs at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and leveraging data on how to meet the needs of students was discussed. Dr. Bernadine Futrell, the deputy assistant secretary for equity and discretionary grants and support services for the U.S. Education Department’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, moderated the panel, stating, “We know from research, we know from practice, we know from our own experience, that a diverse and thriving educator workforce benefits all of us, and really impacts the students, as well as the parents and communities where we are and where we serve.” More details on the Department’s “Raise the Bar” series can be found [here](#). The next and final session will be held on February 9, 2023.

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The Senate was not in session last week while the House continued organizing. House Republicans chose leaders for the authorizing committees. Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC) won her bid to return to the Chair of the newly renamed Education and the Workforce Committee. Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) will be the Ranking Member of the panel. Dr. Foxx is embracing the committee’s oversight responsibilities, as she said in her [first press release](#).

While the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have been set for some time, questions remain about who will be leading the panels’ subcommittees. On Monday it was announced that [Representative Robert Aderholt](#) (R-AL) will lead the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee in the House. A list of all the announced subcommittee Chairs can be found [here](#). In the Senate, it seems advocates will have to wait until the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> for official word on who will be leading the spending subcommittees in that chamber.

Senate appropriators are already reacting to [the rules package](#) passed by House Republicans and plans to keep FY 2024 spending to FY 2022 levels—a goal that already has some predicting a government shutdown. The incoming Appropriations leaders issued a [joint statement](#) of their goal to mark up and pass bipartisan appropriations bills. Incoming Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME) outlined their goal of “funding the government in a responsible and bipartisan manner—that means marking up our appropriations bills and bringing

them to the floor in a timely way.” In the FY 2023 cycle, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not mark up any of the 12 government funding bills.

One of the questions advocates had at the beginning of last week was answered Friday. President Joe Biden has been invited to deliver a State of the Union Address on February 7. That raises the question of when the White House might release its FY 2024 budget request. Given the delay in enacting FY 2023 spending, the Office of Management and Budget is indicating that the request will be delayed—likely until mid-March.

It’s only mid-January, and everything is running late.

### **How does this impact State School Board Associations?**

With Chairwoman Foxx now leading the House Education and the Workforce Committee, oversight of the Department of Education and possibly the spending of COVID-19 assistance dollars could end up on the Committee’s agenda this term. On education spending, Chairman Aderholt – set to lead the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee – has said, “While the federal government can certainly play a role in funding educational opportunities for students and determining national priorities, it shouldn’t be involved in determining a day-to-day classroom curriculum or where a local community spends its educational dollars.” “I firmly believe that parents, local and state officials are in the best position to determine what is needed in their school system,” he continued. Finally, if House Republicans have their way with fiscal year 2024 government spending bypassing an appropriations package at fiscal year 2022 levels, that almost certainly guarantees cuts for education spending.

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

#### **FOXX NAMED CHAIR OF HOUSE EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**

On Monday, January 9, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) was chosen by her colleagues to chair the House Education and the Workforce Committee again. She previously chaired the committee from 2017 to 2019, before Democrats took control of the House and leadership of the committee, then titled the Education and Labor Committee. As *The Education Report* has previously reported, Rep. Foxx had to seek a waiver to be placed in the running for Chair to circumvent term-limit rules that would have prohibited her from serving more than three consecutive terms as a ranking member or chair of a committee. Congressman Tim Walberg (R-MI), who has served on the committee for the past 14 years, challenged Foxx in the race, but was unsuccessful. As Chair of the Committee, the Congresswoman is sure to increase oversight of federal agencies in the Committee’s purview. “To officials in the Biden administration: think about investing in a parking space on Capitol Hill — you will be here often,” Foxx said in a statement. “Conducting vigorous and sustained oversight of the federal government, especially the Departments of Education and Labor, will be among my top priorities,” she continued. Historically, Foxx has been particularly interested in higher education policy, and has been one of the staunchest critics of President Joe Biden’s student loan forgiveness program. In fact, on

Thursday, January 12, Foxx renewed many of her congressional inquiries from the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to federal agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction. Those letters are [here](#).

### **BROOKINGS EXAMINES FUTURE OF U.S. CHARTER SCHOOLS**

On Wednesday, January 11, the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution hosted an event to examine the future of charter schools. The event featured Douglas Harris, nonresident senior fellow for governance studies at the Brown Center on Education Policy; Katrina Bulkley, acting dean and professor of educational leadership for the College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University; Shavar D. Jeffries, KIPP Foundation CEO; and Roberto J. Rodríguez, U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development. The webinar opened with remarks from Harris and Bulkley on recent studies conducted for the federal Charter School Program (CSP) – one on the [combined effects of charter schools](#) and another on how [charter authorizers shape equity](#). The former found that charter school effects peak with 5-15 percent market share, while the latter provides insight on how authorizers play a significant role in the equity values of charter schools, which policymakers should leverage. Jeffries kicked off a panel discussion by highlighting the KIPP Foundation's core values, "Student-based, student-focused conversations," and emphasized the foundation of community within the charter system. He later stated that "90 percent of kids KIPP serves fall below the poverty line," and that in comparison to the public school system, charter schools receive "70 to 90 cents on the dollar." When discussing the Department of Education's role in the CSP, Rodríguez noted the "importance to make sure rule making supports the voices of the community, along with supporting the program," and repeatedly stated that public charters are "laboratories of innovation." Furthermore, in discussing CSP's future, the panel reached a conclusion that charters exist to advance opportunities to support all kids, regardless of race, ethnicity, social class, disability, etc. Issues around national education shortages, regulation of religion, accountability for public dollars, and transportation were also discussed. An achieved recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

### **BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER ANALYZES EARLY CARE EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

On Thursday, January 11, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted a webinar titled, "Early Care and Education Systems: Revisiting a State-by-State Analysis." The event featured Linda Smith, director of BPC's Early Childhood Initiative; Brittney Walsh, associate director of BPC's Early Childhood Initiative; Christopher Jones, executive director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services; Todd Landry, director of the Maine Office of Child and Family Services; and Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, a BPC Early Childhood Initiative fellow. The panel took an in-depth look at BPC's report on [Integrated Efficient Early Care and Education Systems](#). Following the COVID-19 pandemic, child care was brought to the forefront of government attention, as distribution of major relief packages, including CARES and the American Rescue Plan, gave education systems a boost of more than \$50 billion dollars. In response to this historic funding, BPC reanalyzed how states utilize federal child care dollars. This analysis included Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations funding that increased by \$51.7 billion in comparison to 2019. During the panel discussion, Jones noted that "quality childhood experiences are more than just childcare," referencing the importance of education systems on both a state and national level before the pandemic. Since then, Jones explained, many states have improved their childcare initiatives, as noted in the report. For instance, states that were previously reported in the bottom ten, drastically changed childcare regulations and governance to their benefit. Aigner-Treworgy added that the solution to childcare is not one-size-fits-all.



Rather, each state has their own ability to decide what works best for their constituents, she continued. In the end, Landry concluded, it is imperative that these conversations drive states “toward efficient and effective solutions.” A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

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#### 4. New Publications

##### Teacher Spending Accounts: Supporting All Teachers

*American Enterprise Institute* (January, 2023)

AEI analyzes teacher spending accounts (TSAs), finding that they are the most important in-school factor for student success, yet we give teachers almost no say in education funding decisions and that TSAs prioritize individual teacher autonomy and expertise by recognizing that teachers are best positioned to tailor this “last mile” of education spending for the greatest impact.

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#### 5. In the News

##### What Happened When a South Carolina City Embraced Career Education for all Its Students

*The Hechinger Report* (January 12, 2023)

##### Congress Got Rid of a Free Lunch for All Program. That Means Some Students Are Going Hungry

*USA Today* (January 11, 2023)

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### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

#### 6. Weekly Calendar

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

##### **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**Webinar: How States and Districts are Strengthening Kindergarten (E&S)**

**Subject:** New America will hold a virtual discussion with educators and state and local leaders from Alabama, Nevada, metro Atlanta, Boston and Concord, New Hampshire on "Learning How States, Districts and Educators are Strengthening Kindergarten."

**Time:** 3:00 PM

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

##### **Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

**Webinar: Future of Teaching American History (E&S)**

**Subject:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a webinar on "the Future of Teaching American History."

**Participants:** Max Eden, research fellow, AEI; and William Bennett, former U.S. secretary of education.

**Time:** 11:00 AM ET

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

### **Thursday, January 19, 2023**

#### **Webinar: Rising Popularity of Youth Development Programs (E&S, H)**

**Subject:** The Progressive Policy Institute will hold a virtual discussion on "New Skills for a New Economy: The Rising Importance and Popularity of Youth Career Development."

**Participants:** Don Fraser, chief program officer, Education Design Lab; Jim Rosapepe (D), Maryland state Senator; and Lateefah Durant, vice president, Cityworks DC.

**Time:** 2:00 PM ET

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

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## **7. Future Hearings and Events**

### **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**

#### **Webinar: White House Black Initiative Lunch and Learn on Grant Opportunities (E&S)**

**Subject:** Department of Education program staff in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will brief stakeholders about upcoming grant opportunities.

**Time:** 12:00 PM ET

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

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

**Senate Floor:** In recess until Monday, January 23

**House Floor:** In recess until Monday, January 23

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## **9. 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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## **10. About BPAG**

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- 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



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- Policy Events

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