



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](#)**

• **[IDEA](#)**

• **[SCOTUS Hears Case that Could Change IDEA Dispute Resolution](#)**

K-12 Dive (January 19, 2023)

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a special education case that could alter the course of the dispute resolution process for school districts under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

2. **[Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up](#)**

• **[Impact on State School Board Associations](#)**

3. **[In Brief – Last Week in Washington](#)**

• **[NSF Launches \\$6M Prize to Develop K-12 Learning Technologies](#)**: The National Science Foundation (NSF) **launched** a \$6 million prize challenge to develop innovative learning technologies for K-12 students, made possible through a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Schmidt Futures, and the Walton Family Foundation.

• **[Former ED Secretary Discusses Future of Teaching American History](#)**: The American Enterprise Institute's (AEI) Conservative Education Reform Network hosted a webinar titled, "The Future of Teaching American History."

• **[ED Announces \\$63M to Expand Community Schools](#)**: The Department of Education (ED) **announced** \$63 million in new five-year **[Full-Service](#)**

Community Schools (FSCS) grants to support 42 local educational agencies, non-profits, or other public or private organizations and institutions of higher education working to expand existing community schools or establish new programs in several new states and territories.

- **Expert Panel Examines Importance of Youth Career Development:** The Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) hosted a webinar titled, “New Skills for a New Economy: The Rising Importance & Popularity of Youth Career Development.”
- **ED Awards Over \$35M to Support Cradle-Career Solutions:** The Department of Education (ED) announced new awards totaling more than \$35 million for the Promise Neighborhoods and Project Prevent grant programs.

4. New Publications

- **2022 State of Computer Science Education**

Code.org (2022)

This report provides an update on national and state-level computer science education policy, access, and participation, and is a collaboration of the Code.org Advocacy Coalition, the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), and the Expanding Computing Education Pathways (ECEP) Alliance.

5. In the News

- **These 4 Charts Explain Federal Fiscal 2023 K-12 Spending**

K-12 Dive (January 13, 2023)

- **Creating Equitable Access to Computer Science Education**

EdNote (January 19, 2023)

- **Workforce Development, K-12 Teacher Shortages Top List of State Higher Ed Leaders’ Concerns**

Higher Ed Dive (January 20, 2023)

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

- **Webinar: Bipartisan Policy Center on Building Supply, Quality & Equity: Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships:** Join BPC, the Children’s Equity Project, and Start Early on Monday, January 23 as experts highlight the promising work of Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships to date, particularly related to pandemic recovery and stabilization. Experts will offer a roadmap for states to establish and expand their own programs.

Monday, January 23

- **Agency Event: Secretary of Education Address on Department Priorities:**

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona will hold a discussion on "Raise the Bar: Lead the World," focusing on progress and additional efforts towards the Education Department's priorities and vision for education.

Tuesday, January 24

- **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 23

- **Webinar: Start Young! Promoting Intercultural Learning in Early Childhood Settings and the Current Status of Early Childhood Education in America**: The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on how to address both academic and non-academic barriers for transfer students.
Wednesday, January 25

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
- **Webinar: Smart ESSER Investments: Leveraging EdTech for Equitable Learning Acceleration**: Whiteboard Advisors will explore the role emerging technologies can play in accelerating learning and addressing the ongoing effects of lost instructional time during the pandemic
Tuesday, January 31

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

9. **About BPAG**

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

SCOTUS Hears Case that Could Change IDEA Dispute Resolution

K-12 Dive (January 19, 2023)

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a special education case that could alter the course of the dispute resolution process for school districts under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In the case, *Perez v. Sturgis Public Schools*, justices will decide whether individuals who have already entered into an IDEA settlement resolving their claims must still exhaust the administrative process before pursuing a lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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

The House and Senate were in recess last week. They return today and will continue their organizing efforts while beginning to discuss how they might address the country's debt limit. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) wants Democrats to come to the bargaining table and begin negotiations to address the issue as he faces pressures from his Republican colleagues to make good on spending-cut promises made in the recently-approved **Rules package** and during his days-long campaign for the gavel. Speaker McCarthy publicly called on the White House to begin discussions; they have declined the invitation. Democrats want no part of negotiating spending cuts to already-enacted spending bills in return for action on the debt limit. The rhetoric will surely heat up next week and persist through the summer. The Treasury Department says

that is when the measures they are currently using to avoid defaulting on governmental debts will become futile.

Both chambers seem to have set their leaders and the chairs and ranking members for their respective committees, although some questions remain about subcommittee leadership. In the House, advocates will be working with a new Chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee. Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL) will lead the panel, replacing Representative Tom Cole (R-OK), who will move to lead the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee—in addition to being the Chairman of the House Rules Committee. Representative Cole had to vacate the top Republican post on the LHHS panel due to rules that limit tenure in that role to six years. (The Committee **announced the chairs** for the other subcommittees as well.) It's not clear who will be leading the Senate subcommittee yet.

The State of the Union Address is set for February 7th. President Joe Biden will likely tout what he considers to be his achievements to date and set the stage for a re-election campaign, which he is expected to announce soon thereafter. Advocates will be anxiously awaiting the release of his FY 2024 budget request. It is widely rumored that the release will be delayed, although there is some question as to by how long, since “weeks” is among the vaguest of terms in the Nation's Capital.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Education advocates will be eager to get to know Representative Aderholt, a socially and fiscally conservative Republican, who is focused on reducing federal spending. He has not previously served on the LHHS Subcommittee and has not been particularly vocal or active on education funding issues to date. In the 117th Congress, he was the ranking Republican on the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee and a member of the Agriculture and Defense spending Subcommittees. He is the dean of the Alabama delegation, serving his 14th term, and represents most of Tuscaloosa and the northern parts of Birmingham. Some have characterized his district as the country's most Republican district. He voted against both the American Rescue Plan and the FY 2023 omnibus appropriations bill. He describes himself as an “advocate of fiscal responsibility, truth in budgeting and a federal government that operates within its means,” and **said** that as chair of the subcommittee, “I will be laser focused on looking at areas where we can reign in out-of-control spending, much of it put in place during the pandemic and no longer needed.”

House Education and the Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) spoke this week about her plans for the panel, saying that she expects to address parental rights issues soon. She indicated that the **Parents Bill of Rights Act** from the 117th Congress will be before the Committee within weeks. The plan supports the Republicans' “**Commitment to America**,” released last year as the party's promised action to voters. Its **education elements** specifically call for advancing this legislation.

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

NSF LAUNCHES \$6M PRIZE TO DEVELOP K-12 LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

On Thursday, January 12, the National Science Foundation (NSF) **launched** a \$6 million prize challenge to develop innovative learning technologies for K-12 students, made possible through a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Schmidt Futures, and the Walton Family Foundation. The challenge, known as the Visionary Interdisciplinary Teams Advancing Learning (VITAL) Prize Challenge, is a three-phase, one-year competition encouraging interdisciplinary teams from the science and engineering research and startup or small-business communities to advance innovative concepts into prototypes for potentially game-changing learning technologies. The VITAL Prize Challenge will focus on providing interdisciplinary teams the funding and training to build K-12 learning technology innovations at speed and scale for adoption nationwide. "By facilitating elements of inclusive innovation, the United States can spur equitable and effective innovation in key areas of learning technologies, thereby bringing about transformations to the U.S. educational system and improving workforce development," said NSF Assistant Director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Dr. Erwin Gianchandani. More details can be found [here](#).

FORMER ED SECRETARY DISCUSSES FUTURE OF TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY

On Wednesday, January 18, the American Enterprise Institute's (AEI) Conservative Education Reform Network hosted a webinar titled, "The Future of Teaching American History." The event featured former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett, as well as Max Eden, a research fellow for AEI. Following an introduction by Eden, Secretary Bennett asserted, "American history is the subject that has the least amount of consensus among schools," since political ideologies and viewpoints of both government officials and teachers alike continue to shape the curriculum that is taught in classrooms. Furthermore, Bennet continued, as uncovered by the [U.S. History NAEP Report Card](#) – a 2018 study conducted by the National Assessment of Educational Progress – "Data suggests about 15 percent of eighth-grade students are proficient in American history," for reasons that include below average reading levels, teaching variations, and the political ideologies of those represented in state government. During the Q&A portion, a participant commented on [The Story of America](#), a middle and high school U.S. history curriculum created by Secretary Bennett, and asked why elementary school was not included. He responded that the issue is not the lack of American history teaching within the school system, but the reading level of students in these primary years. Understanding more complex foundational documents requires a greater reading ability, which most of these students have yet to develop, Bennet further explained. He then recommended incorporating historical narratives in the mandatory readings for elementary students to initiate fundamental exposure. Discussion around critical race theory, foundational documents, and classroom content drove the ensuing conversation. An archived recording of the event can be found [here](#).

ED ANNOUNCES \$63M TO EXPAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

On Wednesday, January 18, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** \$63 million in new five-year [Full-Service Community Schools \(FSCS\) grants](#) to support 42 local educational agencies, non-profits, or other public or private organizations and institutions of higher education working to expand existing community schools or establish new programs in several new states

and territories. “Community Schools are an essential component of accelerating our students’ learning and supporting their social, emotional, and mental health, and deepening community partnerships,” said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “This work continues today because we know that students learn best when there is a comprehensive and holistic approach to meeting their needs,” he continued. According to ED’s press release, this year’s grant competition received the largest number of applications in the history of the program, demonstrating the enormous need to have a continuum of coordinated support to address students’ academic, social, emotional and mental health needs. More details can be found [here](#).

EXPERT PANEL EXAMINES IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT

On Thursday, January 19, the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) hosted a webinar titled, “New Skills for a New Economy: The Rising Importance & Popularity of Youth Career Development.” The event featured Taylor Maag, director of workforce development policy at PPI; Maryland State Senator Jim Rosapepe; Don Fraser, chief program officer for Education Design Lab; and Lateefah Durant, vice president of CityWorks DC. Maag kicked off the event by asking the panel to expound upon their efforts to champion youth career development. Senator Rosapepe commented on his efforts to expand high school apprenticeships and elaborated on his experience with youth career development policy. He explained that in politics, career development is largely a bipartisan issue with overwhelming support. The Senator additionally touched on the rumored idea that youth apprenticeships and career mentoring in high school could force kids into careers too young, and countered that “kids want a pathway that is paved,” meaning that young people want help, options, and direction. He continued that high school apprenticeships and career coaching creates opportunities, not limitations for students. Durant discussed her work to bring more career services to high schools, similar to those that exist in postsecondary education. She emphasized the need for career mentoring and coaching and identified three key components to career success: social capital, necessary experience, and credentials. Lastly, Durant elaborated on a dual education and work system she coined, “Learn and Earn,” stating that it would create an option for young people to earn their degree, credentials, or certification while working part or full-time to mitigate debt and school expenses. Finally, Fraser explained the shift to a skills-based economy and the subsequent importance of creating skill visibility to employers. He detailed several challenges that such policies might face, outlining two primary roadblocks: motivation and capacity. The first obstacle is simply the willpower to redesign the system, and the educational system needs to be capable of these options, Fraser stated. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

ED AWARDS OVER \$35M TO SUPPORT CRADLE-TO-CAREER SOLUTIONS

On Thursday, January 19, the Department of Education (ED) announced new awards totaling more than \$35 million for the [Promise Neighborhoods](#) and [Project Prevent](#) grant programs. The Promise Neighborhoods grant provides coordinated support services and programs to students from low-income backgrounds from early childhood through their careers. Project Prevent grants support local educational agencies (LEAs) impacted by community violence to expand the capacity of LEAs to implement strategies to help prevent community violence and mitigate exposure. For fiscal year 2022, four new grants totaling \$23 million will focus on the implementation of services in neighborhoods that have never received support through the program. To highlight the importance of these awards, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

plans to visit two schools in Hazard, Kentucky that are supported by Partners for Rural Impact, one of the newest Promise Neighborhoods grantees. More details can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

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5. In the News

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Workforce Development, K-12 Teacher Shortages Top List of State Higher Ed Leaders' Concerns

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Monday, January 23, 2023

Webinar: Bipartisan Policy Center on Building Supply, Quality & Equity: Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (E&S)

Subject: Join BPC, the Children's Equity Project, and Start Early on Monday, January 23 as experts highlight the promising work of Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships to date, particularly related to pandemic recovery and stabilization. Panelists will offer a roadmap for states to establish and expand their own programs.

Time: 3:00 PM

Registration: Register [here](#).

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Agency Event: Secretary of Education Address on Department Priorities (E&S)

Subject: Education Secretary Miguel Cardona will hold a discussion on "Raise the Bar: Lead the World," focusing on progress and additional efforts towards the Education Department's priorities and vision for education.

Time/Location: 12:00 PM; U.S. Department of Education, LBJ Auditorium, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.

Registration: Live stream available [here](#).

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 25, 2023

Webinar: Start Young! -- Promoting Intercultural Learning in Early Childhood Settings & the Current Status of Early Childhood Education in America (E&S)

Subject: The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on how to address both academic and non-academic barriers for transfer students.

Participants: Dr. Lea J.E. Austin, executive director, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California-Berkeley; and Alissa Mwenelupembe, managing director of early learning, NAEYC.

Time: 2:00 PM

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

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Smart ESSER Investments: Leveraging Edtech for Equitable Learning Acceleration (E&S)

Subject: Whiteboard Advisors will explore the role emerging technologies can play in accelerating learning and addressing the ongoing effects of lost instructional time during the pandemic.

Participants: Anna Edwards, chief advocacy officer, Whiteboard Advisors; J.E. Dr. Shawn Bird, chief academic officers, Houston Independent School District; Leann Bradshaw, assistant superintendent; Orange County Public Schools; and Sophia Mendoza, director of instructional technology initiative, Los Angeles Unified School District.

Time: 3:00 PM

Registration: Register [here](#).

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8. 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](#)

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9. 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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