



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**
 - **How States Leverage Funding for School Health Services:** The Georgetown Center for Children and Families and Community Catalyst will hold a webinar to explain how 17 states so far are leveraging new federal Medicaid funding and how other states can get started. Attendees will also learn how states are increasing the types of school health providers eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **ED Releases Title IX Resources on Athletic Program Equal Opportunity:** On Friday, February 17, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights **released** three new resources to support equal opportunity in athletic programs consistent with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the federal law that prohibits sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
 - **STEM Ed Coalition Hosts STEM 101 Briefing for 118th Congress:** On Tuesday, February 21, the STEM Education Coalition hosted a Congressional

briefing to provide an overview of STEM education issues facing the 118th Congress.

4. **New Publications**

- **Strengthening Pathways into the Teaching Profession in Texas: Challenges and Opportunities**

Learning Policy Institute (February, 2023)

This report reviews the emerging research; describes the substantial efforts Texas leaders and institutions are making to address concerns about workforce preparation and stability; and provides additional actionable, research-based policy recommendations.

5. **In the News**

- **Education Takes Center Stage in 2024 GOP Primary**
Politico (February 23, 2023)
- **Democrats Forced to Play Defense on Education**
The Hill (February 22, 2023)
- **3 Ways to Enhance Your District’s Cybersecurity Approach**
Smart Brief (February 22, 2023)
- **Is a Change in Focus on the Horizon for NSBA?**
K-12 Dive (February 21, 2023)
- **Florida Ed Department Pushing Schools to Ditch CDC Survey**
K-12 Dive (February 21, 2023)

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

- **Impact of Pandemic on Student Outcomes:** The Wheelock Educational Policy Center at Boston University will host Katherine Strunk, a researcher from Michigan State University, discussing her analysis of the impact of the pandemic.
Tuesday, February 28 at 12:30pm ET
- **Reducing Child Poverty in the United States:** The Brookings Institution will hold a forum on “Reducing Child Poverty in the United States.”
Wednesday, March 1 at 1pm ET
- **How States Leverage Funding for School Health Services:** The Georgetown Center for Children and Families and Community Catalyst will hold a webinar to explain how 17 states so far are leveraging new federal Medicaid funding and how other states can get started. Attendees will also learn how states are increasing the types of school health providers eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
Thursday, March 2 at 2pm ET

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

- **Senate Floor:** Consideration of nominations
- **House Floor:**
 - H.J. Res. 30 – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of

Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights"

- H.R. 347 – REIN IN Act

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

9. [About BPAG](#)

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

FUNDING

HOW STATES LEVERAGE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Schools have a critical need for federal resources to support student health, especially mental health. Since 2014, states have had the option to draw down additional federal Medicaid funds and reinvest in expanding school health services. The Georgetown Center for Children and Families and Community Catalyst will hold a webinar to explain how 17 states so far are leveraging new federal Medicaid funding and how other states can get started. Attendees will also learn how states are increasing the types of school health providers eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. More information can be found in the [calendar section](#).

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

The House and Senate were in recess last week; both chambers are back in session today. While they were gone, staff and advocates were gearing up for what looks to be a pre-pandemic frenzied March on Capitol Hill. High school tourists, spring breakers, and advocates for myriad causes will be in town next month, and the days of crowded cafeterias and hallway Hill meetings seem to be back.

The appropriations season—which is arguably year-round in modern times—will be in high gear next month as well. President Joe Biden’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget request is expected on March 9th. House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees are expected to host agency leaders to defend that request soon thereafter. Then comes the work of setting spending levels and developing bills, and the two chambers’ approach to those tasks will differ significantly. House Republicans are looking to keep FY 2024 spending to FY 2022 levels. That intention has their Democratic colleagues urging stakeholders to detail what such cuts would mean to programs, services and citizens. Senate Democrats will almost certainly blunt cuts proposed by the House, but the FY 2024 cycle will be a complicated and difficult one for education and other advocates.

As for the interaction of FY 2024 spending and the debt limit issue, there hasn’t been any public progress. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has made it clear he is leaving any negotiations to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA). He feels that a would-be deal struck by the Speaker and the White House would be a starting point for the Senate, which will not be able to pass the kind of spending cuts House Republicans are clamoring for. The Treasury Department started resorting to “extraordinary measures” last month to avoid defaulting. The Congressional Budget Office, however, said last week that the measures could be exhausted sometime between July and September if Congress does not raise the ceiling on borrowing. That

means several more months of the issue and surrounding politics making headlines in Washington, DC.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Education advocates are facing a unique circumstance. Three of the four leaders of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittees are new to their posts. One—Subcommittee Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL)—is new to the panel altogether and is reportedly getting up to speed on the programs and agencies he is in charge of budgeting for this Congress. Fortunately, his counterpart, Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) is a subject matter expert, for sure. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) are experienced panel members and have track records that are being mined by the education community.

Additionally, the House Subcommittee has established some deadlines important to education advocates seeking project funding or pushing for specific programmatic funding levels. Members of Congress must submit all requests—programmatic funding levels, report language, and earmarks, for the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill by April 13. The same two education accounts as last year are **eligible for earmarks**: the Fund for the Improvement of Education for K-12 funding, and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education for higher education. In the FY 2023 spending bill, those accounts provided earmarked funding of \$200 million and \$430 million, respectively. (The Subcommittee’s guidance is [here](#) and the Appropriations Committee’s general information about requests is [here](#).) The requests mean a lot of paperwork for interested education stakeholders.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED RELEASES TITLE IX RESOURCES ON ATHLETIC PROGRAM EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

On Friday, February 17, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights **released** three new resources to support equal opportunity in athletic programs consistent with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the federal law that prohibits sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The resources were published to help students, parents, coaches, athletic directors, and school officials assess whether a school is adequately providing equal athletic opportunity regardless of sex, as required by the law. The **overview resource** provides examples of the kinds of situations that could, depending upon facts and circumstances, raise Title IX concerns at any education level. There are two additional and more specialized resources – one for **K-12 schools** and one for **colleges and universities** – that offer information specific to these school communities.

STEM ED COALITION HOSTS STEM 101 BRIEFING FOR 118TH CONGRESS

On Tuesday, February 21, the STEM Education Coalition hosted a Congressional briefing to provide an overview of STEM education issues facing the 118th Congress. Speakers included Karen Horting, CEO and executive director of the Society of Women Engineers; Allyson Knox, senior director of education policy and programs at Microsoft; Dr. Yvonne Lai, a Milton Mohr Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska; Rhonda Foxx, head of global corporate affairs at Solidigm; and STEM Education Coalition Executive Director James Brown. The panel

discussed the challenges of supporting a diverse STEM workforce to meet the demand of STEM employers, ensuring all school districts have well-qualified educators in STEM subjects and the professional development they need, and how Congress can better align systems and efforts so stakeholders have more flexibility to respond to these challenges at a larger scale.

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4. New Publications

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Webinar: Impact of Pandemic on Student Outcomes

Subject: The Wheelock Educational Policy Center at Boston University will host Katherine Strunk, a researcher from Michigan State University, discussing her analysis of the impact of the pandemic.

Time: 12:30 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#)

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Webinar: Reducing Child Poverty in the United States

Subject: The Brookings Institution will hold a forum on “Reducing Child Poverty in the United States.”

Participants: Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO); Claire Babineau-Fontenot, CEO, Feeding America, and others.

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Webinar: How States Leverage Funding for School Health Services

Subject: The Georgetown Center for Children and Families and Community Catalyst will hold a webinar to explain how 17 states so far are leveraging new federal Medicaid funding and how other states can get started. Attendees will also learn how states are increasing the types of school health providers eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of nominations

House Floor:

H.J. Res. 30 – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights"

H.R. 347 – REIN IN Act, a bill to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes.

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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](#)

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

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

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

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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

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