



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

**JULY 24, 2023**

Jared Solomon, Editor

[jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Della Cronin, Editor

[dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Bob Moran, Editor

[rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

[slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com)

*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**
    - **Secretary Cardona Emphasizes Importance of Teacher Retention, Diversity:** On Wednesday, July 19, Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona provided remarks during a Teacher Quality and Retention Program (TQRP) offered by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. During his remarks, Cardona voiced his vision for a more diverse, better paid, and more respected teaching profession in 10 years.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
  - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **BPC Panel Looks at Early Head Start Partnerships, Pandemic Funding:** On Tuesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) held its final webinar on Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) with the Children’s Equity Project and Start Early. Tuesday’s event concluded a three-part series on EHS-CCP and focused on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **House Passes Bill Barring Schools from Sheltering Migrant Students:** On Wednesday night, the House of Representatives passed HR 3941, titled the *Schools Not Shelters Act*, which would prohibit the use of public education facilities to provide shelter for undocumented immigrants.

- **IES Considers Creation of National Center to Advance Education Tools:** In celebration of Grade-Level Reading (GLR) Week 2023, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading held “NCADE Emerging: A Briefing and Conversation with the Institute for Education Sciences” as part of their Bright Spots and Silver Linings webinar series on July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Hunt Institute Looks at Innovations around Personalized Teaching:** On Thursday, July 20, the Hunt Institute convened a virtual conversation on “Exploring the Power of Innovation in the Classroom.” Participants examined innovative classroom developments and how educators are transforming the way they teach to better serve students’ needs and abilities.

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

- **Practice-Based Learning’s Positive Impact on Mental Health**  
*K-12 Dive | Kognito (July, 2023)*  
This *K-12 Dive* playbook discusses current mental health statistics for the K-12 population, how these challenges are affecting students and communities, and how schools are often the first point of intervention.

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

- **Auditors Are on the Hunt for ESSER Fraud. 5 Things to Know**  
*Education Week (July 20, 2023)*
- **How School Board Meetings Became Flashpoints for Anger and Chaos across the Country**  
*ProPublica (July 19, 2023)*

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

- **Digital Equity in Education:** The Business Council for International Understanding will hold a virtual discussion on "Digital Equity in Education."  
*Tuesday at 12pm ET*
- **Breaking Barriers: Recognizing and Uplifting Gifted Students from Diverse Backgrounds:** The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on the expansion and access of gifted programming in underperforming urban districts.  
*Tuesday at 2pm ET*
- **Digital Divide in Education:** The Aspen Institute will hold a virtual discussion on "Educational Digital Divide: How to Reach 1.6 Billion Students Left Behind."  
*Wednesday at 9am ET*
- **House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on School Closures and Impact to Students:** The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Generational Learning Loss: How Pandemic School Closures Hurt Students."  
*Wednesday at 10:15am*
- **Beyond Recruitment: Innovations in Policy and Practice to Retain Diverse Educators:** The One Million Teachers of Color Campaign will discuss bright spots of innovation in the policies and practices that states and districts have implemented to support and retain educators of color.  
*Wednesday at 1pm ET*

- **Senate Help Committee Markup:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will hold a markup of S. 2122, the "National Apprenticeship Act of 2023"; S. 2363, the "Youth Apprenticeship Advancement Act"; S. 161, the "Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2023"; S. 2402, the "Gateway to Careers Act of 2023"; and the "Investing in Sectoral Training Partnerships Act."  
*Thursday at 10am ET*
- **Senate Commerce Committee Markup:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a markup of S. 1153, "The National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act"; S. 1409, the "Kids Online Safety Act"; S. 1418, the "Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act"; S. 2116, the "Strengthening Support for American Manufacturing Act"; and S. 2201, the "American Cybersecurity Literacy Act."  
*Thursday at 10am ET*
- **Senate Appropriations Committee Markup:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY24 "Defense Appropriations Act", "Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", "Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", and "Homeland Security Appropriations Act".  
*Thursday at 10:30am ET*
- **Policies to Support Youth Mental Health:** The Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a virtual discussion on "Mind Check: Policies to Support Youth Mental Health."  
*Thursday at 12pm ET*

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

- **Senate Floor: S. 2226** - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024
- **House Floor:**
  - **H.R. 4366** – Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.
  - **H.R. 4368** – Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes

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

## 9. **About BPAG**

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### 1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

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

#### **CARDONA EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER RETENTION, DIVERSITY**

On Wednesday, July 19, Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona provided remarks during a Teacher Quality and Retention Program (TQRP) offered by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. During his remarks, Cardona voiced his vision for a more diverse, better paid, and more respected teaching profession in 10 years. "I want to see the profession as beautifully

diverse as our country,” he said to a room of about 80 Black teachers and teachers-in-training in Washington, D.C. “Our students need that.” TQRP is a five-year fellowship, supporting new and aspiring teachers which provides preservice training, personalized support once teachers enter into the classroom, and an annual 10-day professional development summer institute. Read more [here](#).

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

This past week was full of activity on appropriations bills on both sides of the Capitol, with the House and Senate making progress on passing various spending plans.

As the Senate releases its bills, observers see a storm ahead. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins’ (R-ME) decision to add \$13.7 billion to their Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 spending bills points to inevitable conflict with the House – one that could very likely lead to a government shutdown in the fall. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) faces other challenges before the calendar forces a confrontation on FY 2024 spending. House appropriators have developed a number of bills that would be difficult for the House to pass, given the slim Republican majority.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will soon be releasing and then on Thursday marking-up their FY 24 education funding bill, which will likely contain much greater funding for education than the House bill. The House bill passed out of subcommittee over a week ago has yet to be scheduled for a full review and vote by the Appropriations Committee. While advocates track spending bills next week, the House Education and the Workforce Committee will be keeping them busy as well. On Wednesday, the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education will hold [a hearing](#) titled, “Generational Learning Loss: How Pandemic School Closures Hurt Students.” On Thursday, the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee [will hold one](#) titled, “Lowering Costs and Increasing Value for Students, Institutions and Taxpayers.” The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will also be busy. On Thursday, they are [holding an Executive Session](#) to consider a number of bills related to apprenticeships and workforce development, including the National Apprenticeship Act and the Youth Apprenticeship Advancement Act.

As the August recess approaches, Congress is trying to pack a lot into its last week. Particularly Thursday. The week will be a busy one.

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

Education advocates are anxiously awaiting Senate action on the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill; a full Committee markup [is scheduled](#) for Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. The bill is expected to be much more generous to education and other domestic agencies and programs than the House bill passed last week.

The House Subcommittee-approved Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending plan might not even see full committee action because of its proposed cuts and controversial policy riders. Historically, a markup of the bill is long and adversarial, with many amendments. As of Friday, a full committee markup of the bill is not on the panel’s calendar, but there are

rumors it could be the same day as Senate action—this Thursday. A number of Republicans on the Committee have said privately they don't want to be forced to vote on the bill at all, and that if they were, they might vote against it. The same would be true for some of their colleagues who are not on the Committee, if the bill makes it to the floor. Given the incredibly deep proposed education cuts, advocates are hoping the bill does not see any further action.

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

#### **BPC PANEL LOOKS AT EARLY HEAD START PARTNERSHIPS, PANDEMIC FUNDING**

On Tuesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) held its final webinar on [Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships](#) (EHS-CCP) with the Children's Equity Project and Start Early. Tuesday's event concluded a [three-part series](#) on EHS-CCP and focused on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. The panel consisted of early childhood thought leaders and professionals that examined how EHS-CCP helped local communities stabilize child care partners during the pandemic, expand access to mental health and comprehensive services for children and families, and strengthen workforce development and retention through investment in the most successful qualities of Early Head Start and child care programs. Linda Smith, director of the early childhood initiative at the BPC, provided opening remarks and moderated a panel discussion, accentuating the importance of considering solutions to long-standing early childhood and child-care issues. Arizona State University's Children's Equity Project Executive Director Shantel Meek followed Smith's remarks, pressing that partnerships are one "clear and existing mechanism to really replicate the Head Start model and to move toward ensuring that all kids have a consistently high quality experience no matter what door they go through and no matter the dollars funding that particular slot." She then explained why early childhood care programs should look at Head Start as a model and highlighted specific characteristics of the program that have consistently proved successful, such as mental health supports, nutritious meals, full inclusion of children with disabilities, and connections to services for families, to name a few. Meek's colleague, Dr. Eric Bucher, elaborated on outcomes from the 10 [EHS-CCP 2022 grant awardees](#). He outlined how these pandemic grants enabled providers to keep doors open; improve facilities to meet health guidelines; create care packages for families; and leverage health and mental health staff to address public health guidance. He additionally noted how EHS-CCP is another avenue to increase childcare provider compensation, wages, and professional support for the workforce. A panel discussion followed, which provided childcare professionals from Montana AWARE, The Ohio State University's Campus Childcare Program, Early Learning Ventures, Early Head Start, and United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education with an opportunity to expand on how the 2022 EHS-CCP grants enriched those specific programs. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#), and more information on the event series is [here](#).

#### **HOUSE PASSES BILL BARRING SCHOOLS FROM SHELTERING MIGRANT STUDENTS**

On Wednesday night, the House of Representatives passed [HR 3941](#), titled the *Schools Not Shelters Act*, which would prohibit the use of public education facilities to provide shelter for undocumented immigrants. Introduced by Representative Marc Molinaro (R-NY), The *Schools Not Shelters Act* came about as officials across the United States have been struggling with where to house the rising influx of migrants in their communities. HR 3941 was introduced by Molinaro on May 26<sup>th</sup> in response to New York Governor Kathy Hochul's [proposed plan](#) to use

three SUNY campuses to shelter over 1,500 migrants. Around that same time, Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) introduced H.Res. 461, a similar resolution condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities as shelters for undocumented immigrants. The House Committee on Education and the Workforce advanced the *Schools Not Shelters Act* in June with a Committee Report from Chairwoman Virginia Foxx chastising “the Biden administration and certain government officials [for] abusing their power to bolster the illegal immigration agenda.” HR 3941 was passed with a 222-201 vote, falling primarily along party lines with only four Democrats voting in favor. The bill prohibits the use of public schools from housing migrants by making the availability of federal funds, like Title I and Pell Grants for K-12 schools and higher education institutions, contingent on not providing for the shelter of undocumented individuals. Supporters of the bill commend HR 3941’s prioritization of student safety and academic success with the use of federal dollars, while opponents have labeled the bill divisive and fueling of anti-immigrant rhetoric. The Office of Management and Budget noted the Biden administration is “strongly opposed” to the bill which would “supersede local control” and endanger funds that “strengthen equal access to education, assist students from low-income families, improve educational opportunities for those with disabilities, and provide access to college.” The *Schools Not Shelters Act* will now be sent to the Senate, where it is unlikely to be considered further.

### **IES CONSIDERS CREATION OF NATIONAL CENTER TO ADVANCE EDUCATION TOOLS**

In celebration of Grade-Level Reading (GLR) Week 2023, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading held “NCADE Emerging: A Briefing and Conversation with the Institute for Education Sciences” as part of their Bright Spots and Silver Linings webinar series on July 19<sup>th</sup>. With Emily Samose from the CGLR providing introductory remarks, the discussion surrounded recent proposals to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE) within the Institute for Education Sciences (IES). IES Director Dr. Mark Schneider and Commissioner of Education Research for IES Dr. Elizabeth Albro presented as guest speakers about their work over the last decade to “transform the way we do education research” and institutionalize advanced research practices into ED’s model. The discussion also featured Dr. Na’ila Suad Nasir serving as President of the Spencer Foundation, Phil Halperin from the Silver Giving Foundation, and Jim Kohlmoos, a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Generally, NCADE would establish a central body by which to conduct, analyze, and support research based on a “rapid replication” model similar to that employed in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which helped to create historic innovations like the internet and GPS. As described by Director Schneider, NCADE would transform the normal way ED conducts research by centralizing a model of “learn fast, fail fast, figure out what works, and replicate.” This model includes a greater investment in short-term projects that might possess greater risk, yet return transformative benefits for students—IES’s Transformative Research in the Education Sciences Grant Program was designed to begin advancing much of this core mission. The New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act introduced by Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) would provide the legislative authority and funding necessary to establish NCADE within the IES, while additionally providing grants to strengthen statewide longitudinal data systems. Whether advanced legislatively with the NEED Act or through the reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA), featured panelists provided comments supporting greater investment, risk-taking, and creative approaches to developing bold education solutions. A full recording of the event can be found here.



## HUNT INSTITUTE LOOKS AT INNOVATIONS AROUND PERSONALIZED TEACHING

On Thursday, July 20, the Hunt Institute convened a virtual conversation on “Exploring the Power of Innovation in the Classroom.” The panel discussion featured commentary from Dr. Callie Edwards, acting director of program evaluation and education research at The Friday Institute; Carnegie Corporation of New York’s LaVerne Srinivasan; David Cook, director of innovative learning for the Kentucky Department of Education’s Office of Continuous Improvement and Support; and Cynthia Leck, a partner at Transcend Education. Participants examined innovative classroom developments and how educators are transforming the way they teach to better serve students’ needs and abilities. Discussion centered on areas such as personalized learning, project-based learning, and technology integration. Srinivasan pointed to data on school education technology usage, stating that prior to the pandemic, the average school district used close to 900 ed tech tools, and immediately post-pandemic, districts averaged 2,300 ed tech tools. While this significant shift makes sense due to the change from in-person to remote learning during the pandemic, she noted that over half of the tools utilized are personalized learner focused. “Ed tech can drastically improve the learning experience of students and the ways which we move through the education and workforce continuum,” Srinivasan stated. Dr. Edwards elaborated on project-based learning practices, saying that they foster life-long learning and that they can help students identify interesting career paths. She spoke to her specific work on educational innovation around project-based learning and outlined several strategies for successful implementation. Cook’s remarks voiced the importance of community engagement around structuring local education systems and shared his experience in Kentucky working with local communities to design more vibrant learning experiences and deeper learning activities for students. “The vision of education can’t be the Department of Education’s vision. We know that in communities is where actual rubber meets the road,” Cook stated. He additionally highlighted how Kentucky invested ESSER dollars in school districts through state grants to incentivize the creation of deeper learning environments. Lastly, Leck detailed Transcend’s work supporting innovative learning models that prioritize equitable, 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning that allows young people to thrive by stepping away from one-size-fits-all experiences and moving toward more responsive and personalized learning. A recording of the discussion can be viewed [here](#).

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### 4. New Publications

#### [Practice-Based Learning’s Positive Impact on Mental Health](#)

*K-12 Dive* | *Kognito* (March, 2023)

This *K-12 Dive* playbook discusses current mental health statistics for the K-12 population, how these challenges are affecting students and communities, and how schools are often the first point of intervention.

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### 5. In the News

#### [Auditors Are on the Hunt for ESSER Fraud. 5 Things to Know](#)

*Education Week* (July 20, 2023)

#### [How School Board Meetings Became Flashpoints for Anger and Chaos across the Country](#)

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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### 6. Weekly Calendar

#### **Tuesday, July 25, 2023**

##### **Webinar: Digital Equity in Education**

**Subject:** The Business Council for International Understanding will hold a virtual discussion on "Digital Equity in Education."

**Participants:** Angela Bennett, digital equity officer, National Telecommunications and Information Administration; and Alejandro Roark, chief, FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau.

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

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

##### **Webinar: Race & Education | Breaking Barriers: Recognizing and Uplifting Gifted Students from Diverse Backgrounds**

**Subject:** The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on the expansion and access of gifted programming in underperforming urban districts.

**Participants:** Kristen Seward, clinical associate professor, Teacher Certification Advisor, and Associate Director of the Gifted Education Research & Resource Institute (GER<sup>2</sup>I), Purdue University; and Jack A. Naglieri, Ph.D. emeritus professor, George Mason University.

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

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

#### **Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

##### **Webinar: Digital Divide in Education**

**Subject:** The Aspen Institute will hold a virtual discussion on "Educational Digital Divide: How to Reach 1.6 Billion Students Left Behind."

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

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

##### **Hearing: House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on School Closures and Impact to Students**

**Subject:** The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Generational Learning Loss: How Pandemic School Closures Hurt Students."

**Time and Location:** 10:15 a.m.; 2175 Rayburn HOB.

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

##### **Webinar: Beyond Recruitment: Innovations in Policy & Practice to Retain Diverse Educators**



**Subject:** The One Million Teachers of Color Campaign will discuss bright spots of innovation in the policies and practices that states and districts have implemented to support and retain of educators of color.

**Participants:** Jean Desravines, CEO, New Leaders; Amanda Fernández, CEO, Latinos for Education; Victoria Van Cleef, executive vice president, Learning, Impact, and Design, TNTP; Dr. Phelton Moss, senior professorial lecturer of education policy & leadership, American University and Education Fellow at NAACP.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

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

### **Thursday, July 27, 2023**

#### **Markup: Senate HELP Committee**

**Subject:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will hold a markup of S. 2122, the "National Apprenticeship Act of 2023"; S. 2363, the "Youth Apprenticeship Advancement Act"; S. 161, the "Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2023"; S. 2402, the "Gateway to Careers Act of 2023"; and the "Investing in Sectoral Training Partnerships Act."

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 430 Dirksen SOB.

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

#### **Markup: Senate Commerce Committee**

**Subject:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a markup of S. 1153, "The National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act"; S. 1409, the "Kids Online Safety Act"; S. 1418, the "Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act"; S. 2116, the "Strengthening Support for American Manufacturing Act"; and S. 2201, the "American Cybersecurity Literacy Act."

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 253 Russell SOB.

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

#### **Markup: Senate Appropriations Committee**

**Subject:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY24 "Defense Appropriations Act", "Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", "Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", and "Homeland Security Appropriations Act".

**Time and Location:** 10:30 a.m.; 106 Dirksen SOB.

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

#### **Webinar: Policies to Support Youth Mental Health**

**Subject:** The Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a virtual discussion on "Mind Check: Policies to Support Youth Mental Health."

**Participants:** Reginald Williams II, vice president of international health policy and practice innovations, Commonwealth Fund; John MacPhee, CEO, Jed Foundation; Roshni Koli, chief medical officer, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute; Julia Harris, associate director of health, Bipartisan Policy Center; and Solome Tibebu, founder and CEO, Going Digital.

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

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

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## 7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

**Senate Floor:** [S. 2226](#) - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024

**House Floor:**

- [H.R. 4366](#) – Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.
- [H.R. 4368](#) – Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, 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 2023 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

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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