



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. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
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 - **New America Event Criticizes Book Bans, Urges More Inclusive Education:**
On Tuesday, New America hosted an event titled, “From Book Bans to Inclusive Education.” The discussion centered on book bans in public K-12 Education, with a focus on the importance of representation, teacher perception of book bans, the relationship between banned books and internet content, and the cost of removing books from public school classrooms.
 - **AEI Examines Education Policy with Former ED Secretary Arne Duncan:**
On Tuesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an event titled, “A Way Forward for School Reform: A Conversation with Frederick M. Hess and Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan.”

3. **New Publications**
 - **All Work and No Pay – Teachers’ Perceptions of Their Pay and House Worked**
RAND Corporation (September, 2023)
The authors describe the roles that salary and work hours play in teachers' intentions to leave their jobs and how these factors relate to teacher well-being. The research indicates that teacher dissatisfaction with hours worked, salary, and

working conditions appears to drive poor well-being and lead teachers to consider leaving their jobs. The authors recommend increasing teacher pay, reducing hours worked, and improving working conditions to boost teacher retention.

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- [Public Charter Schools and Teachers of Color](#): The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools will hold a webinar to examine data from a poll on public school teachers and what it could mean for teachers of color.
Wednesday at 3pm ET

6. [On The Floor of Congress This Week](#)

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

As was reported all week, last week was an historic one on Capitol Hill. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was fired from his job as speaker after nine months in the post. The successful “[motion to vacate](#)” was offered by Representative Matt Gaetz (R-FL)—a hardline conservative with a history of bad blood with McCarthy. Ultimately, he was joined by [seven Republican colleagues](#) and every Democrat to vote to remove the Speaker. The top job in the House is now vacant, with [Representative Patrick McHenry \(R-NC\)](#) taking on the job temporarily.

How did we get here? [A last-minute deal was struck to avert a federal government shutdown last Saturday](#), and was arguably the impetus for the Speaker’s removal. Some Republicans felt that relying on Democratic votes to pass the bill was unacceptable. Others thought it didn’t cut spending enough. There was also irritation with the overall annual appropriations process and the passage of a continuing resolution that didn’t address the country’s border issues. These actions prompted Tuesday’s vote. The lack of a Speaker throws House Republicans into chaos and paralyzes the chamber.

It has been reported that House Republicans will meet privately on Tuesday to hear from the current candidates for Speaker, including Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Trump-endorsed Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH). While Scalise and Jordan are actively campaigning for the post, other potential candidates include Republican Study Committee Chairman Kevin Hern (R-OK) and Representative McHenry, who is holding the post in the interim.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The situation could further delay FY 24 government funding, especially that of the Education Department. The current measure keeping the government open and funded at FY 2023 levels expires on November 17, 2023. Without a speaker, the House cannot debate bills. The Appropriations Committee cannot meet to markup spending bills. The Rules Committee cannot meet to discuss what bills might be on the floor. Authorizing Committees cannot hold hearings on pressing issues. No work can be done without the selection of a Speaker. As of Friday, insiders predicted that multiple floor votes will be required to select a new Speaker of the House, but members want to avoid the spectacle of the 15 votes it took to elect Speaker McCarthy in January. There's also the open suggestion that whoever wins the job could very well lose it after November 17th or the ultimate resolution of FY 2024 spending, as the events of last week show that satisfying all Republican members of the House is an unenviable—and perhaps impossible—task.

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2. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

NEW AMERICA EVENT CRITICIZES BOOK BANS, URGES MORE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

On Tuesday, New America hosted an event titled, “From Book Bans to Inclusive Education.” The event featured Maika Moulite, social media manager for New America and Howard University PhD student; Revida Rahman, co-founder of One WillCo; Natasha Tarpley, children’s book author and fellow for the Learning Sciences Exchange; Rebecca Henderson, curriculum services supervisor at Westmoreland Intermediate Unit; Ma’asehyahu Isra-UI, professor of education at the University of Richmond; and Kyle Zimmer, president, CEO, and co-founder of First Book. The discussion centered on book bans in public K-12 Education, with a focus on the importance of representation, teacher perception of book bans, the relationship between banned books and internet content, and the cost of removing books from public school classrooms. Rahman and Tarpley explained that diverse representation in academic content is proven to improve student engagement with learning materials by providing a basis for the student to relate to the content on a personal level. Additionally, multiple panelists mentioned the importance of positive narratives within diverse content, saying that many books featuring African Americans are centered on trauma. Many panelists vocalized their concerns that robust discussion of culturally relevant content would be driven from classrooms, and that efforts to ban books demonstrate a lack of faith in educators to selectively teach important content. Zimmer also drew the connection between banned books and internet access – increasingly young children have access to an abundance of knowledge online that can expose them to the type of content that is found in banned books. Zimmer additionally commented that banned authors such as Alice Walker and Toni Morrison may provide better context for controversial content than online resources like those found on social media. The panel also noted that the time and money required for teachers to vet all the books on school campuses is a significant burden on

educators, who are often already operating on time and budget constraints. A full recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

AEI EXAMINES EDUCATION POLICY WITH FORMER ED SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN

On Tuesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an event titled, “A Way Forward for School Reform: A Conversation with Frederick M. Hess and Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan.” Moderator Erica Green, a Correspondent for the *New York Times*, led the discussion by initiating conversation about parent teacher interactions, post-Covid education recovery efforts, and chronic absenteeism. Although many education experts voiced their concerns that schools cannot simply resume normal operations post-Covid, as those practices generated insufficient student outcomes, we find ourselves back to normal. Hess attributed this shortcoming to the leadership of Congress being purely performative. What is rewarded are people who can grab attention rather than those that keep their head down and get work done, Duncan stated. Duncan attributed this shortcoming to a lack of clear, federal education goals and a lack of a standardized methods to measure progress. Duncan listed greater access to pre-k, higher third grade literacy rates, as well as more accurate high school and college graduation rates as his top education priorities. When asked who should be held accountable for improving the education system, Hess and Duncan both agreed that everyone should be held accountable, including politicians, parents, and teachers. When critiquing the *No Child Left Behind Act* —the 2002 update of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—Hess argued that the law disconnected parents from the schooling process, which is detrimental because successful student outcomes rely on strong parent teacher relationships. Hess pressed that parents should know that they have clear obligations to make sure their child shows up to school on time, completes their homework, has limited screen time at night, etc. When Green brought up the fact that many kids attained jobs during the pandemic and saw that they could get a job and support themselves despite not finishing their education, Duncan countered that these kids were merely surviving and not thriving. There were also minimal possibilities for career advancement without the completion of a formal education, Duncan further stated. A full recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

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3. New Publications

All Work and No Pay — Teachers' Perceptions of Their Pay and Hours Worked

RAND Corporation (September, 2023)

The authors describe the roles that salary and work hours play in teachers' intentions to leave their jobs and how these factors relate to teacher well-being. The research indicates that teacher dissatisfaction with hours worked, salary, and working conditions appears to drive poor well-being and lead teachers to consider leaving their jobs. The authors recommend increasing teacher pay, reducing hours worked, and improving working conditions to boost teacher retention.

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4. In the News

McCarthy Becomes First Speaker in History Ousted

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Many Districts Racing Against the Clock to Spend ARP Funds

K-12 Dive (October 2, 2023)

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Republicans Keep Talking About Abolishing the Education Department. Why?

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

5. Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Webinar: Public Charter Schools and Teachers of Color

Subject: The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools will hold a webinar to examine data from a poll on public school teachers and what it could mean for teachers of color.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Registration: Register and full agenda [here](#).

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6. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: In recess until Monday, October 16

House Floor: Potential vote to elect a Speaker of the House

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7. 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](#)

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[Congressional Budget Office](#)

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8. 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 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:

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- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

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