



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**
 - **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment**
 - **ED Awards Nearly \$115M to Increase Educator Pay, Promote Diversity:** The Department of Education (ED) announced last week nearly \$115 million in new awards to support 29 Teacher and School Leader (TSL) Incentive projects, which expand on ED's efforts to ensure a well-prepared, diverse, and sustainable educator workforce.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **White House Issues Executive Order on AI, Includes Education Provisions:** On Monday, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order (EO) on safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI), which includes three action items from the Department of Education within 365 days of the date of the order.
 - **Early Learning Experts Examine Early Elementary School Enrollment:** On Monday, the Urban Institute hosted an event titled, "The Effects of Public Prekindergarten for 3-Year-Olds on Early Elementary School Enrollment," which presented data, methods, and findings from the Urban Institute's research on early enrollment utilizing evidence from the Washington, D.C. centralized lottery system known as My School DC.

- **AEI on Expanding Educational Opportunities with Geoffrey Canada:** On Monday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted Geoffrey Canada, president of Harlem Children’s Zone and founder of the William Julius Wilson Institute, for a discussion with AEI’s Frederick M. Hess, director of education policy studies, on expanding educational opportunity through community-wide efforts and challenges presented by the current political landscape.

4. **New Publications**

- **Rural Child Care Policy Framework**
Bipartisan Policy Center (October, 2023)
In rural America, families experience challenges accessing and affording child care that exceed those of urban areas. This framework explains the challenges, strategies, and solutions that are critical to the development of child care policies in rural regions.
- **K-12 Federal COVID Relief: What Can We Learn from Doing School Funding Differently?**
New America (October, 2023)
This report explores the most significant ways in which COVID funding differed from school districts’ standard funding allocations, and what those differences can teach policymakers both about how to evaluate the ESSER investment impact and about how to structure and manage future school funding distributions. The conclusions are informed by in-depth interviews with a number of district and state officials involved in administering and using ESSER dollars.

5. **In the News**

- **A Heated Battle in Virginia’s Largest School District Tests the Strength of ‘Parent Rights’ Activism**
NBC News (November 1, 2023)
- **Here’s What Biden’s AI Executive Order Could Mean for Schools**
K-12 Dive (October, 31, 2023)
- **Home Schooling’s Rise from Fringe to Fastest-Growing Form of Education**
The Washington Post (October, 31 2023)
- **Final Title IX Rules Delayed Once More as Ed Dept Misses Deadline**
K-12 Dive (October 31, 2023)
- **Boys Graduate High School at Lower Rates than Girls, With Lifelong Consequences**
The Associated Press (October 29, 2023)

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

- **Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Social Media and Teen Mental Health:** The Senate Judiciary Privacy, Technology, and the Law Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Social Media and the Teen Mental Health Crisis.”
Tuesday at 10am ET
- **Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development:** The Government Executive Media Group will hold a virtual discussion on “Partnerships in Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development.”
Tuesday at 1:30pm ET

- **Senate Appropriations Hearing on the President’s Supplemental Request:**
The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing titled, “A Review of the President’s Supplemental Request for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security.”
Wednesday at 9am ET
- **The Bipartisan Policy Center Launches Child Welfare Initiative:** The Bipartisan Policy Center will launch its Child Welfare Initiative (CWI), an effort to renew bipartisanship in the child welfare field and facilitate the development of effective, bipartisan federal and state policies.
Wednesday at 11am ET

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **ESSER Fiscal Cliff and Impacts on Nonprofits and Vendors:** The Georgetown University Educnomics Lab will hold a webinar to examine the impacts to vendors and nonprofits the end of federal education relief funding will bring.
November 15 at 12 ET

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

- **Senate floor:** Consideration of nominations
- **House floor:**
 - **H.R. 4820** – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
 - **H.R. 4664** – Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024
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9. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**

10. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING & RECRUITMENT

ED AWARDS NEARLY \$115M TO INCREASE EDUCATOR PAY, PROMOTE DIVERSITY

The Department of Education (ED) announced last week nearly \$115 million in new awards to support 29 Teacher and School Leader (TSL) Incentive projects, which expand on ED’s efforts to ensure a well-prepared, diverse, and sustainable educator workforce. Through **Raise the Bar: Lead the World**, ED is supporting states and school districts in their efforts to eliminate educator shortages. The TSL grants help districts to address educator shortages by supporting career advancement and teacher leadership opportunities, increasing compensation, and improving educator retention. “While all students benefit from diverse teachers, when students of color see their backgrounds and experiences reflected in their teachers, we see higher levels of academic achievement and student engagement in school, and more students aspiring to be teachers themselves one day. That’s why attracting, retaining, and supporting a diverse educator workforce is a top priority in our efforts to Raise the Bar for learning conditions in our schools,”

said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The announcement and list of awardees can be found [here](#).

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Last week, the House's new Speaker, Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA) started working on many tasks associated with the position. He started hiring for the staff needed for a Speaker's team, held his first press conference, and met with his counterparts. He also started shepherding a number of spending bills through the House, [including one that would send aid to Israel](#) via offsets in the IRS's budget. The House has passed half of the 12 Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 spending bills (the Senate has passed three), but Speaker Johnson is also discussing what he might like to see in a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government past November 17th—the expiration date of the measure keeping the government open now. He has floated the idea of a bill that would fund operations through January 15th, although [some other novel scenarios have also been discussed](#), including funding some pieces of the government longer than others.

Speaker Johnson's approach to the Israel aid bill has its critics on both sides of the aisle, which could make efforts to get any legislation to President Biden's desk difficult. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) have criticized the House-passed Israel aid bill, [although for different reasons](#).

Advocates will certainly focus on appropriations once again this week. Everyone is watching the calendar as November 17th and another potential shutdown approaches.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

COSSBA's federal relations team in D.C. is closely monitoring action on the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill on both sides of the Capitol. Speaker Johnson has said the bill, which proposes devastating cuts to education investments, could be on the floor the week of November 13 – though that looks less and less likely. Members of the House were given a deadline of last Friday to propose additional [amendments](#) to the bill. The Commerce, Justice and Science bill, which would fund some juvenile programs at the Justice Department at troubling levels and cut STEM education funding at the National Science Foundation, could be on the House floor as early as next week. Advocates continue to press lawmakers to reject both House proposals—which only have Republican support—in favor of the bipartisan Senate bills.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

WHITE HOUSE ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER ON AI, INCLUDES EDUCATION PROVISIONS

On Monday, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order (EO) on safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI). The EO released on Monday builds off of the [White House 2022 AI Bill of Rights](#) and establishes new standards for AI safety and security, protects Americans' privacy, advances equity and civil rights, stands up for consumers and workers, promotes innovation and competition, advances American leadership around the world, and more. Pertaining to education, the EO requires three main things from the Department of Education (ED) within 365 days of the date of the order: the development of resources, policies,

and guidance regarding AI; the development of an “AI toolkit” for education leaders; and the strengthening and expanding of education and training opportunities that provide individual pathways to occupations related to AI. The resources developed by the Secretary of Education, in accordance with the EO, will address safe, responsible, and nondiscriminatory uses of AI in education, including the impact AI systems have on vulnerable and underserved communities. The EO states that the “AI toolkit” should assist with implementing recommendations from the ED’s [AI and the Future of Teaching and Learning report](#), including appropriate human review of AI decisions, designing AI systems to enhance trust and safety and align with privacy-related laws and regulations in the educational context, and developing education-specific guardrails. Additionally, to address AI-enabled deception, the EO establishes standards and best practices for detecting AI-generated content (through watermarking) and authenticating official content which could help address educators’ concerns that AI can help students plagiarize. A copy of the EO can be found [here](#), and a fact sheet of the EO can be found [here](#). In addition, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris held a briefing on the EO Monday, which can be watched [here](#).

EARLY LEARNING EXPERTS EXAMINE EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

On Monday, the Urban Institute hosted an event titled, “The Effects of Public Prekindergarten for 3-Year-Olds on Early Elementary School Enrollment.” During the first half of the discussion, Breno Braga, principal research associate for the Urban Institute, presented data, methods, and findings from the Urban Institute’s research on early enrollment utilizing evidence from the Washington, D.C. centralized lottery system known as [My School DC](#). During the second half of the discussion, Erica Greenberg, principal research associate for the Urban Institute, moderated a discussion with guest speakers Miriam Calderón, chief policy officer of ZERO TO THREE; Pamela Morris-Perez, professor of applied biology at New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; and Maurice Sykes, D.C. Early Learning Collaborative board member. Currently, six states and Washington, D.C. offer universal public Pre-K, but these programs are primarily focused on recruiting and retaining four-year-olds. D.C. is the exception, offering Pre-K for three-year-olds (Pre-K3), serving about 69 percent of the District’s three-year-olds. Little research has been conducted on Pre-K3’s impact, so the Urban Institute set out to fill this gap. Primary research questions looked at the relationship between school-based Pre-K3 students and the likelihood of those students to enroll in a public kindergarten program; to persist in the public school system; and the likelihood to switch public schools. Secondary research questions looked at the effectiveness of program models, such as dual language and Montessori, as well as the students that benefit the most from Pre-K3 based on racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. By looking at data from the D.C. lottery system, the Urban Institute found that participating in Pre-K3 increases kindergarten enrollment and persistence in the D.C. Public School (DCPS) system. The findings also show that children enrolled in a DCPS Pre-K3 program are 18.5 percent more likely to enroll in a DCPS kindergarten school and 37.2 percent more likely to persist in the DCPS system. During the panel discussion, panelists considered the report’s implications on policy, practice, and research. Calderón pointed out that universal access does not mean universal quality, and more research should be done to address the quality of Pre-K3 programs. Morris-Perez was interested in looking at the post-pandemic enrollment challenge, especially for Pre-K3 to kindergarten students. Sykes acknowledged that the D.C. Pre-K3 system is hard to replicate in other areas of the country because every community has its own political, social, cultural, educational, and economic context. A full recording of the discussion can be found [here](#).

AEI ON EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH GEOFFREY CANADA

On Monday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted Geoffrey Canada, president of Harlem Children's Zone and founder of the William Julius Wilson Institute, for a discussion with AEI's Frederick M. Hess, director of education policy studies, on expanding educational opportunity through community-wide efforts and challenges presented by the current political landscape. Following an introduction by Dr. Hess, Canada provided remarks on the importance of education and "place-based theory," an instructive approach that prioritizes the connection between a learning process and the physical place in which teachers and students are located. Canada further illustrated present challenges in the education system and the struggles students and educators currently face, particularly related to increased violence and stressors on mental wellness. "It's too much for a school. You can't just put all this on a school and say, 'Okay now solve every problem in society,'" Hess explained. He spoke to how the Harlem Children's Zone addressed these problems, saying that the organization supported parents starting at the birth of their children by providing parents with information on brain and child development. This elevated level of support continued with the children through grade school, college and career development. "We're asking other folks to not walk away from education...but to simply say in certain places, putting all of this on a public school is unfair. There's no evidence that it will work at scale," said Hess. Hess and Canada then participated in a fireside chat, where they discussed more of Canada's work, how politics have impacted education over the years, and parental responsibility. The discussion highlighted the significant impact local communities can have on education and pressed the importance of creating a positive environment for students. Following the conversation, questions from the audience honed in on Canada's influence on education reform efforts across the country and education in the aftermath of the pandemic. A recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Rural Child Care Policy Framework

Bipartisan Policy Center (October, 2023)

In rural America, families experience challenges accessing and affording child care that exceed those of urban areas. This framework explains the challenges, strategies, and solutions that are critical to the development of child care policies in rural regions.

K-12 Federal COVID Relief: What Can We Learn from Doing School Funding Differently?

New America (October, 2023)

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5. In the News

[A Heated Battle in Virginia’s Largest School District Tests the Strength of ‘Parent Rights’ Activism](#)

NBC News (November 1, 2023)

[Here’s What Biden’s AI Executive Order Could Mean for Schools](#)

K-12 Dive (October 31, 2023)

[Home Schooling’s Rise From Fringe To Fastest-Growing Form of Education](#)

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[Final Title IX Rules Delayed Once More As Ed Dept Misses Deadline](#)

K-12 Dive (October 31, 2023)

[Boys Graduate High School at Lower Rates than Girls, With Lifelong Consequences](#)

The Associated Press (October 29, 2023)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Hearing: Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Social Media and Teen Mental Health

Subject: The Senate Judiciary Privacy, Technology, and the Law Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Social Media and the Teen Mental Health Crisis.”

Time and Location: 10:00 a.m. ET; 226 Dirksen SOB.

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

Webinar: Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development

Subject: The Government Executive Media Group will hold a virtual discussion on “Partnerships in Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development.”

Participants: Jeff Brown, chief information security officer, State of Connecticut; Patrick Slattery, professor, Baruch College Zicklin School of Business; Keith Clement, professor, California State University, Fresno Department of Criminology; and Greg Cooper, information systems security officer, New Mexico State University.

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Hearing on the President’s Supplemental Request

Subject: A Review of the President’s Supplemental Request for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security

Participants: The Honorable Xavier Becerra, secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and the Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Time and Location: 9:00 a.m. ET; 106 Dirksen SOB.

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

Webinar: The Bipartisan Policy Center Launches Child Welfare Initiative

Subject: The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) will launch its Child Welfare Initiative (CWI), an effort to renew bipartisanship in the child welfare field and facilitate the development of effective, bipartisan federal and state policies.

Participants: Rob Geen, fellow, BPC (Moderator); Hope Cooper, fellow, BPC; Janet Kelly, special advisor, Governor Youngkin (R-VA) and founder, Virginia’s Kids Belong; Dr. Jeremy Kohomban, president and ceo, The Children’s Village; Jedd Medefind, president, The Christian Alliance for Orphans; and Rebecca Purser, research manager, The Harris Poll.

Time: 11:00 a.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Webinar: ESSER Fiscal Cliff and Impacts on Nonprofits and Vendors

Subject: The Georgetown University Educnomics Lab will hold a webinar to examine the impacts to vendors and nonprofits the end of federal education relief funding will bring.

Participants: Marguerite Roza, Georgetown University.

Time: 12:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor:

Consideration of nominations

House Floor:

H.R. 4820 – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024

H.R. 4664 – Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024

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9. 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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10. **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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