



# SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## *LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE*

WASHINGTON UPDATE  
DECEMBER 2023

# ABOUT COSSBA

Founded by state school boards associations in 2022, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is a non-partisan, national alliance with 25 state members, dedicated to sharing resources and information to assist state organizations focused on supporting local school board members.





- Thomas Bertrand, Executive Director
- Della Cronin, Bose Public Affairs Group
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# COSSBA FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- Increase Federal Education Funding
- Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment:  
Title II, Part A
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Broadband, Connectivity, Cyber-Security, & E-Rate
- Prioritizing Public K-12 Education as Schools of  
Choice

# FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING

- Significant increases in Title I funding to allow schools to quickly address and overcome achievement gaps and disparities exacerbated by COVID-19.
- Increases in Title IV funding to help solve the additional student health challenges schools are facing, especially those in mental health.



# TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

- Increase Title II, Part A funding to attract, develop, and retain high quality educators by including the Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals (PREP) Act in the Higher Education Act legislation.
- Incentivize teacher and principal licensure reform efforts with the goals of improving student achievement and meeting the needs of public schools.

# IDEA

- Amend IDEA to ensure parents and school districts can fully collaborate and provide an education that meets the needs of individual students.
- Allocate more funding for students with disabilities that is at least equal to the national average per pupil expenditure for students served under the IDEA.

# CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- Extend recently-expired reimbursement rate increases and nutrition waivers to ease supply chain and post-pandemic challenges.
- Provide funds to:
  - Cover higher food/labor costs
  - Increase lunch/breakfast reimbursements
  - Expand lunch/breakfast to offer free meals to all students



# CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- Bolster National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program to include expansion of community eligibility so that more schools serving large numbers of low-income children can provide meals at no charge to all students, including creating a statewide option so that states could more easily begin offering meals at no charge to all students.



# CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- Reduce burdensome federal mandates and provide flexibility for school districts to administer healthy meals students want to eat, to include reducing meal planning complexities, cutting red tape, and maximizing staff time and funds for meal prep.
- No unfunded mandates or under-resourced requirements.

## BROADBAND, CONNECTIVITY, CYBERSECURITY & E-RATE

- Codify and fund federal support for implementing effective cybersecurity measures for K-12 schools.
- Distribute emergency funding for students who lack access to devices and/or connectivity.
- Implement a permanent exemption or solution to the Anti-Deficiency Act.
- Reinstate net neutrality to ensure that schools are paying additional costs.



## PRIORITIZING K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

- **COSSBA opposes increased federal government activity and funding for non-public school choice options, including but not limited to voucher, tax credit, and Education Savings Account programs. These programs divert funding from public schools, lack financial transparency and accountability, and are subject to less regulation and oversight.**

# CONGRESS

- Divided
- Current Make-up
  - House: 221 R – 213 D
  - Senate: 49 R – 48 D – 3 I
- Santos ?



# STATUS OF FY '24 APPROPRIATIONS

- House:
  - 10 of 12 Bills through full Committee
    - Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill not through
- Senate:
  - Committee has passed all 12 bills

# STATUS OF FY '24 APPROPRIATIONS

- House has cleared 7 bills
- Senate has passed 3 bills
- Fiscal Year '23 ended September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Passed Continuing Resolution (CR) to maintain current funding through Nov. 17
- Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> CR providing funding until Jan. 19, 2024 or Feb. 2, 2024



# STATUS OF FY '24 APPROPRIATIONS

- January 19 2024:
  - Veterans Affairs
  - Transportation
  - Housing and Urban Development
  - Energy
  - Military Construction
- February 2, 2024:
  - Everything else



# STATUS OF FY '24 APPROPRIATIONS

- House Labor, HHS, and Education Bill
  - Cuts Title I funding by nearly 80%
    - \$14.7 billion
  - Eliminates Title II-A funding (\$2 B)
  - Eliminates ESL funding (\$890 M)



## REST OF 2023

- National Defense Authorization Act
- Supplemental Funding Bill
  - Ukraine War funding
  - Israel War funding
  - Disaster funding
  - Border security
- Senate Activity
  - Nominations
  - Military promotions

# LOOKING TO 2024

- Presidential Election Year
- Completion of FY '23 Funding
- Education legislation ?
- Speaker status ?



QUESTIONS?



**Visit Our Website**  
**[cossba.org](http://cossba.org)**

**Questions?**

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