



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

**APRIL 15, 2024**

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 Recruitment and Retention**

• **ED, DOL Announce Efforts to Expand Pathways into Teaching:** On

April 3, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Labor, announced new efforts to expand high-quality and affordable pathways into teaching, as well as to increase pay and strengthen working conditions across the early childhood, K-12, and higher education workforce.

• **Funding**

• **LHHS-ED Appropriators Review FY25 Education Dept Budget**

**Request:** On Wednesday, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee had Secretary Cardona testify on the Department of Education's Fiscal Year 2025 budget request.

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

• **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **ED Launches Cybersecurity Government Coordinating Council:** On March 28, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), launched the Government Coordinating

Council (GCC) for the Education Facilities Subsector, a pivotal step forward in the national effort to enhance cybersecurity across K-12 educational institutions.

- **House Passes Bill with Key Improvements to WIOA:** On Tuesday, the House passed H.R. 6655, “A Stronger Workforce for America Act.” The bipartisan legislation makes critical improvements to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that will expand skills development provisions, strengthen the relationship between employers and the workforce system, and put more Americans on the pathway to successful careers.
- **American Enterprise Institute Makes Case for Curriculum Reform:** On Tuesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted a webinar outlining the use of curriculum reform to improve educational outcomes.
- **House Education Panel Holds Hearing on FAFSA Rollout:** On Wednesday, the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing titled, “FASFA Fail: Examining the Impact on Students, Families and Schools.” The hearing covered the troubled rollout of the new simplified FASFA as required by the FASFA Simplification Act included in the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Omnibus.
- **Joint Economic Committee Examines Early Childhood Education:** On Wednesday, the Congressional Joint Economic Committee held a hearing titled, “Building Blocks for Success: Investing in Early Childhood Education.”
- **Afterschool Alliance Holds Briefing on STEM Opportunities:** On Thursday, the Afterschool Alliance and the Afterschool STEM Hub cohosted a congressional briefing on the benefits of afterschool STEM programs for supporting high school youth.
- **State Boards of Education Share Sustainable Strategies Beyond ESSER:** On Thursday, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) held a webinar titled, “State Strategies for Sustaining Pandemic Recovery Efforts Beyond ESSER.”

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

- **K-12 Work-Based Learning Opportunities: A 50-State Scan of 2023 Legislative Action**

*Center for American Progress (April 2024)*

The report underscores why policymakers must work alongside educators and industry leaders to develop high-quality, equitable work-based learning models that bring these opportunities to more students.

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

- **Education Secretary Elevates New Deputy Chief as College Enrollment Deadlines Loom**  
*ABC News (April 11, 2024)*
- **Lawmakers Express Dismay About FAFSA Form Troubles**  
*Roll Call (April 10, 2024)*
- **After FAFSA Issues, Education Department Faces ‘Crises of Credibility’**  
*Inside Higher Ed (April 8, 2024)*
- **When Schools Experimented With \$10,000 Pay Hikes for Teachers in Hard-To-Staff Areas, The Results Were Surprising**

*The Hechinger Report (April 8, 2024)*

- **Leadership Is Key, Autonomy Matters: Lessons in Why Tutoring Programs Work**

*The 74 (April 3, 2024)*

- **Irregular Sleep and Late Bedtimes Associated with Worse Grades for High School Students**

*National Institutes of Health (April 2, 2024)*

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

- **A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request for the Department of Health and Human Services:** The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee will have a budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Service's Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

*Tuesday at 10am ET*

- **Fiscal Year 2025 Request for the Department of Labor:** The House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee will have a budget hearing on the Department of Labor's Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

*Wednesday at 10am ET*

- **Book Bans and Curriculum Censorship:** EdTrust will hold a webinar to convene leaders in education and civil rights to discuss pushing back against efforts to suppress the teaching of honest history and diversity of identities and ideas in school learning materials.

*Wednesday at 6pm*

- **Education Systems Transformation Through Inclusive Education:** The Brookings Institution will hold a symposium on "Education Systems Transformation for and Through Inclusive Education."

*Thursday at 9am ET*

## 7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Summit on Education: Reset. Reframe. Reform:** The Center for American Progress will hold a two-day event on education. The event is being billed as a way to "reset the conversation concerning education, reframing it as an essential pillar of democracy, and explore reforms that will strengthen education as a crucial vehicle for opportunity for students and their families."

*May 1, 2024*

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

- **Senate floor:** Consideration of nominations

- **House floor:**

- **H.R. 4639** – Fourth Amendment Is Not for Sale Act (Davidson; Judiciary)
- **H.R. 6192** – Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act (Lesko; Energy and Commerce)
- **H.R. 7673** – Liberty in Laundry Act (Ogles; Energy and Commerce)
- **H.R. 7645** – Clothes Dryers Reliability Act (Ezell; Energy and Commerce)

- **H.R. 7637** – Refrigerator Freedom Act (Miller-Meeks; Energy and Commerce)
- **H.R. 7626** – Affordable Air Conditioning Act (Crenshaw; Energy and Commerce)
- **H.R. 7700** – Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act (Langworthy; Energy and Commerce)

9. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**

10. **About BPAG**

**1. COSSBA Policy Priorities**

**TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

**ED, DOL ANNOUNCE EFFORTS TO EXPAND PATHWAYS INTO TEACHING**

On April 3, the Department of Education (ED), in coordination with the Department of Labor (DOL), announced new efforts to expand high-quality and affordable pathways into teaching, as well as to increase pay and strengthen working conditions across the early childhood, K-12, and higher education workforce. ED joined the **Biden-Harris Administration’s Good Jobs Initiative**, a call to action across the federal government to help shore up access to and retention of good jobs. As part of this initiative, ED issued a set of **Good Jobs Principles for Education** describing high-quality working conditions that comprise a good job and will help attract and retain a high-quality education workforce in all roles and levels, from early childhood through higher education. Additionally, the press release points out that since President Joe Biden took office, the number of states with teacher registered apprenticeship programs has grown to 34 states and Puerto Rico. Building on this progress, ED and DOL announced availability of new funding and resources to support the expansion of high-quality and affordable pathways into careers in education, addressing a key factor driving educator shortages. ED will invest nearly \$50 million to expand high-quality and affordable educator preparation programs including \$25 million in the **Teacher Quality Partnership Grant program**, \$8 million in the **National Professional Development** program, and \$15 million for the **Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence** program. In addition, DOL will invest nearly \$200 million to support Registered Apprenticeships, which includes K-12 teachers as a priority occupation. Both agencies will also launch new technical assistance offerings to support high-quality Registered Apprenticeship programs for teachers and other efforts to support teacher recruitment, preparation, retention, and development.

**FUNDING**

**LHHS-ED APPROPRIATORS REVIEW FY25 DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST**

On Wednesday, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee had Secretary Cardona **testify** on the **Department of Education’s (ED) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget request**. The Administration’s request adheres to the Fiscal Responsibility Act budget caps, and requests \$79.6 billion for ED, a \$500 million (0.63%) increase over the FY 2024 measure, approved in March. There were heated exchanges on the proposed Title IX regulation, and Secretary Cardona responded that ED is working through over 150,000 comments, and that he cannot prematurely comment on the regulation. He stressed that the budget proposes a \$22 million increase for the Office of Civil Rights to complete the

regulation and investigate claims of civil rights violations. He also stressed that as a life-long educator and father, he wants to ensure that all students feel safe, seen, and welcomed. Other questions members asked focused on the Administration's lack of support for charter schools, as well as staff and budgetary resources at the Federal Student Aid Administration (student debt relief vs. the failed FAFSA roll-out), campus safety and free speech, and recovery from the pandemic. A full summary prepared by BPAG staff is linked [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

---

## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Tourists, advocates, and Congress returned to Washington, DC, last week, as was apparent by security lines on Capitol Hill and the number of buses lining the city streets. Spring is always busy in the Nation's capital for a number of reasons, including the budget and appropriations calendar, which when followed, means that April is the time for important spending decisions. Of course, Congress only wrapped up Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 spending last month as they left town for Easter recess, so the FY 2025 process is off to a slow start.

In the House, leaders needed to select a new Chair for the House Appropriations Committee. Representative Kay Granger (R-TX), who has been leading the panel this Congress, stepped down from the seat. She is retiring from Congress at the end of this year, and suggested it made more sense for someone else to helm the panel as it navigates the FY 2025 process, since it most likely won't be completed this year. She had also expressed frustrations with the Committee's turn to divisive cultural issues and the lack of control she wielded in the most recent process, since many of the bills were essentially written by Republican leadership. Representative Tom Cole (R-OK) ran unopposed for the post. That set off some maneuvering among his Republican colleagues as the top post for the Rules Committee, which Cole had been leading, needed to be filled. The same is true for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee that he used to chair.

This week will certainly be another busy one on Capitol Hill. The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold [a hearing on antisemitism at Columbia University](#). In the Senate, advocates continue to hope that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will act on updating the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act after House passage of their proposal this week. Staff report that Memorial Day is still the goal for a bill release and mark up.

Spring has finally sprung!

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

Education advocates are somewhat optimistic about Representative Cole's ascension to chair of the Appropriations Committee. He has served as the top Republican on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Committee and has worked across the aisle in that position. He is a strong supporter of TRIO programs and has been a moderate voice on other education program funding. It is hoped that, under his leadership, Republicans will not draft another proposal that makes extreme cuts to the Department of Education, as was the case last year. His first official act as chair was to release [FY 2025 Member Guidance](#) on programmatic and language requests.

Another sign that the FY 2025 appropriations process is underway was Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona's appearance before the House LHHS Committee last week. On Wednesday, he

testified on the Department of Education’s FY 2025 budget request and faced tough questions on the proposed Title IX regulation, the perceived lack of support for charter schools from the Administration, as well as staff and budgetary resources that support federal student aid efforts, with some arguing that efforts to provide student debt relief have contributed to problematic FAFSA processing. He also answered questions about campus safety, free speech, and academic recovery from the pandemic.

[Back to top.](#)

---

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

#### **ED LAUNCHES CYBERSECURITY GOVERNMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL**

On March 28, the Department of Education (ED), in coordination with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), launched the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) for the Education Facilities Subsector, a pivotal step forward in the national effort to enhance cybersecurity across K-12 educational institutions. This new council signifies collaboration between federal, state, tribal, and local governments to protect schools from cybersecurity threats. The Education Facilities Subsector is part of the Government Facilities Sector, one of 16 critical infrastructure sectors defined in Presidential Policy Directive 21. In recent years, the K-12 cybersecurity landscape has become increasingly complex, with school districts across the country experiencing ransomware attacks that shut down schools and data breaches that expose sensitive health, financial, and educational data on students, families, and staff. The formation of the GCC is a direct response to these challenges, aiming to foster a more resilient and secure K-12 digital infrastructure through structured dialogue and shared best practices. This collaborative effort builds on significant progress made by ED in partnership with CISA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal agencies. Notably, the launch follows the “Back to School Safely” K-12 Cybersecurity Summit hosted by First Lady Jill Biden at the White House in August, underscoring the Biden-Harris Administration’s whole-of-government approach to addressing cyber incident prevention, mitigation, and recovery in K-12 schools

#### **HOUSE PASSES BILL WITH KEY IMPROVEMENTS TO WIOA**

On Tuesday, the House passed H.R. 6655, “A Stronger Workforce for America Act.” The bipartisan legislation makes critical improvements to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that will expand skills development provisions, strengthen the relationship between employers and the workforce system, and put more Americans on the pathway to successful careers. The bipartisan bill was introduced in December by Education and the Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA). In a statement, Chair Foxx underscored current challenges facing the workforce, highlighting current gaps in skills upgrading, limited employer engagement, and inconsistent efficacy of WIOA-funded education programs. The bill addresses these obstacles by making “an array of key improvements to WIOA programs, such as expanding and improving the quality of skills development, strengthening services for disconnected youth, and codifying grants to help individuals released from incarceration transition back to employment and sustainable careers,” Ranking Member Scott explained. Most notably, the legislation prioritizes employer-led initiatives, upgrading the skills of American workers by equipping them with the necessary skill sets to fill jobs in critical industries. In addition, the bill introduces measures to enhance the efficiency and accountability of WIOA programs, streamlining the “eligible training provider list” to match current hiring demands and ensure the complete implementation of the



performance accountability system more closely. Furthermore, the legislation places a greater emphasis on work-based learning for youth, aiming to enhance workforce education programs at community colleges that align with in-demand jobs. A bill summary is available [here](#).

### **AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE MAKES CASE FOR CURRICULUM REFORM**

On Tuesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted a webinar titled, “[The Case for Curriculum Reform](#).” The event featured an expert panel consisting of AEI’s Senior Fellow Robert Pondiscio; Barbara Davidson, executive director of the Knowledge Matters Campaign at StandardsWork; Kristen McQuillan, a partner at TNTP; Orlando Riddick, division superintendent of the Houston Independent School District; and David Steiner, executive director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy. Drawing from his recent article, “[40 Years After ‘A Nation At Risk,’ Could Curriculum Reform Finally Move the Needle on Academic Improvement?’](#)”, Pondiscio outlined the use of curriculum reform to improve educational outcomes. Citing the work of Emily Hanford and Thomas Cain, Pondiscio examined the burden curriculum development places on ill-prepared teachers which often results in low-quality curriculum. To remedy this issue, Pondiscio proposed the creation of a high-quality standard curriculum for adoption by all teachers as opposed to the current system that lacks evidence of efficacy. Davidson articulated the tension between the new curriculum and educator preparation, which trains teachers to create lesson plans. She underscored the need for education leadership to encourage teacher buy-in of curriculum reform. McQuillan agreed with the need to invest teachers in the idea of curriculum reform and pointed to the reduced workload from more traditional, standardized curriculum as a strong motivator for teacher support. Riddick elaborated on curriculum reform implementation in Houston’s [New Education System](#) (NES) and underscored the comprehensive nature of the implementation, where teachers receive additional training and resources in addition to the high-quality curriculum training. Riddick believed the benefit of curriculum reform is not in the content but rather the additional structure to lessons. Steiner cautioned about the unclear data outcomes from Louisiana curriculum reform, despite the known benefits of higher quality curricula. Steiner stated that with testing, preparation, and curriculum standards fragmented, educators cannot expect curriculum to be a silver bullet that improves performance without additional training for teachers. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

### **HOUSE EDUCATION PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON FAFSA ROLLOUT**

On Wednesday, the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing titled, “[FASFA Fail: Examining the Impact on Students, Families and Schools](#).” The hearing covered the troubled rollout of the new simplified FASFA as required by the [FASFA Simplification Act](#) included in the [Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Omnibus](#). Witnesses included Mark Kantrowitz, president of Cerebly Inc.; Justin Draeger, president and CEO of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA); Kim Cook, CEO of the National College Attainment Network; and Rachel Feldman, vice provost of enrollment for University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill. Subcommittee Chair Burgess Owens (R-UT) opened with remarks on the importance of the simplified FASFA for providing information to students, families, and institutions to make enrollment decisions. Chair Owens then described the many failures with this year’s FASFA implementation, blaming the Department of Education (ED) and the Biden-Harris Administration. Subcommittee Ranking Member Fredericka Wilson (D-FL) reiterated the importance of the FASFA in reducing barriers for underserved students. She also cited an [article](#) demonstrating reduced FASFA completion

and speculated on the failed rollout's impact on enrollment. Kantrowitz highlighted delays, errors, and communication failures that have affected students, families, colleges, and scholarship providers. Kantrowitz attributed these issues to a rushed overhaul process without adequate testing, staffing, funding, or prioritization from ED. Draeger emphasized the significant challenges schools are facing due to delays in receiving FAFSA submissions from ED, causing anxiety among students and uncertainty about financial aid packages. Draeger further criticized the pattern of last-minute communication, drastic policy changes, and negative impacts on stakeholders. He highlighted the credibility crisis ED faces due to additional errors in FAFSA calculations, leading to paralysis among schools. Cook focused on the 30 percent drop in FAFSA submission, emphasizing the need for the Biden Administration to support community organizations and state campaigns for increasing FAFSA completion. Feldman's testimony centered on the impact on the UNC system, largely confirming Draeger's testimony while also expressing concern for first-generation students and under-resourced high schools. Questions from subcommittee members focused on determining impact, accountability within ED, and restoring public trust in the department. A recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

### **JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE EXAMINES EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

On Wednesday, the Congressional Joint Economic Committee held a hearing titled, "Building Blocks for Success: Investing in Early Childhood Education." Witnesses included Javier Martinez, speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives; Melissa Boteach, vice president for income security and childcare/early learning at the National Women's Law Center; Dr. Lindsey Burke, director of the Center for Education Policy at the Heritage Foundation; and Colleen Hroncich, policy analyst for the Center for Educational Freedom at the Cato Institute. The hearing saw substantial partisan disagreement over the efficacy of federally funded early childhood programs. In his opening statement, Committee Chair Martin Heinrich (D-NM) underscored the economic benefits of accessible and reliable early childhood education. He emphasized that high-quality Pre-K creates a solid foundation for academic success and improves future job prospects. In addition, he contended that federal investment in early childhood education helps keep childcare centers open and raises wages for early childcare workers. Highlighting recent successes in New Mexico's early childcare program initiatives, Democrats championed increased investments in the nation's early childcare infrastructure – expressing support for initiatives such as the Child Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Credit, and the Child Care and Development Block Grant. In contrast, Republicans cast doubt on the efficacy of universal preschool, with Dr. Burke citing a Health and Human Services study on Head Start programs. She argued that universal preschool has little to no impact on a child's long-term success, pointing to the study's finding regarding Head Start's minimal influence on social-emotional well-being and cognitive outcomes. Dr. Burke also referenced a Gallup poll indicating that most mothers prefer either staying at home or working part-time, claiming that universal preschool will unfairly tax families wanting to utilize alternative childcare options. Instead, she proposed that Congress allow eligible families to allocate their Head Start funds to private providers of choice and build off the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, allowing 529 savings accounts to be used for preschool and early education and care expenses. A recording of the hearing and witness statements are available [here](#).

### **AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE HOLDS BRIEFING ON STEM OPPORTUNITIES**

On Thursday, the Afterschool Alliance and the Afterschool STEM Hub cohosted a congressional briefing on the benefits of afterschool STEM programs for supporting high school youth. This



event, taking place the same week as the National STEM Festival, featured a panel discussion with Anita Krishnamurthi, senior vice president of STEM and youth engagement for the Afterschool Alliance; Zanib Abbas, founder and CEO of SciTech2U; Siobhan Hayes, tech lab director for the Digital Harbor Foundation; Natalie Taitano, senior manager of corporate responsibility for Qualcomm; and Jubei Brown-Weaver, an application developer apprentice at Accenture. Krishnamurthi opened by stating the importance of STEM education and emphasized how afterschool opportunities provide a unique context for students outside the classroom. In keeping with the Afterschool Alliance's goals of centering youth voices, Brown-Weaver spoke to his experience as an apprentice through the CareerWise DC program. The program, which begins with high school juniors, is structured with creative afterschool classroom settings where students like Brown-Weaver can develop professional skills while working with an employer supervisor to pursue specific interests. From an employer perspective, Taitano described how partnerships with afterschool programs like FIRST Robotics provide a valuable talent pipeline for internships. These programs connect classroom experience with professionals engaging students for higher retention. Taitano recognized the student's preferences for innovation, mentorship, and flexibility and endorsed the power of media exposure such as Mission Unstoppable with Million Girls Moonshot. Hayes highlighted how high-tech workers are defining Baltimore as a tech hub while also noting poor STEM education opportunities in Baltimore schools. While she has worked to create accessible afterschool programs, she underscored the challenges of reaching older youth with these programs. She explained that hiring student teachers and providing pathways to well-compensated jobs improved engagement, a sentiment echoed by Brown-Weaver. Abbas expressed the mission of SciTech2U, which is to deliver culturally relevant STEM opportunities to underrepresented K-12 students at a low cost. To help with older students, Abbas echoed the idea of hiring students to teach their younger peers, which both educates the student teachers and provides desirable paid opportunities.

### **STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION SHARE SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES BEYOND ESSER**

On Thursday, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) held a webinar titled, "State Strategies for Sustaining Pandemic Recovery Efforts Beyond ESSER." The event featured a panel of education experts – Marguerite Roza, research professor at Georgetown University and Director of the Edunomics Lab; Peter Zamora, director of federal relations and policy for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO); and Paolo DeMaria, president and CEO of NASBE. Delving into the current state of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, the panelists discussed how high-poverty districts will be most affected by the expiration of these funds and underscored the need for strategic financial planning. Roza stressed the necessity of equipping districts with finance management tools and urged them to prioritize decisions that optimize student outcomes, rather than solely focusing on retaining staff. In addition, Zamora discussed various options available to districts as they navigate the impending expiration of ESSER. These options included pre-payment of services using ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds, seeking liquidation extension, and sustaining ESSER-funded activities with other federal funds. Emphasizing the latter option, Zamora elaborated that if an activity was funded by ESSER, all or part of it may be sustained with recurring federal formula funding. Furthermore, Zamora advised districts to seek guidance from their respective state education authorities regarding the interpretation of federal regulations. He cited North Dakota's recent guidance as an example and recommended utilizing resources provided by organizations like CCSSO to facilitate informed decision-making. To

conclude, the panelists unanimously advocated for a data-driven and outcome-focused approach when making tough budgetary decisions, emphasizing the importance of maximizing the impact of available funds to bring the most value to students.

[Back to top.](#)

---

#### 4. New Publications

##### K-12 Work-Based Learning Opportunities: A 50-State Scan of 2023 Legislative Action

*Center for American Progress* (April 2024)

The report underscores why policymakers must work alongside educators and industry leaders to develop high-quality, equitable work-based learning models that bring these opportunities to more students.

[Back to top.](#)

---

#### 5. In the News

##### Education Secretary Elevates New Deputy Chief as College Enrollment Deadlines Loom

*ABC News* (April 11, 2024)

##### Lawmakers Express Dismay About FAFSA Form Troubles

*Roll Call* (April 10, 2024)

##### After FAFSA Issues, Education Department Faces ‘Crisis of Credibility’

*Inside Higher Ed* (April 8, 2024)

##### PROOF POINTS: When Schools Experimented With \$10,000 Pay Hikes for Teachers in Hard-To-Staff Areas, The Results Were Surprising

*The Hechinger Report* (April 8, 2024)

##### Leadership Is Key, Autonomy Matters: Lessons in Why Tutoring Programs Work

*The 74* (April 3, 2024)

##### Irregular Sleep and Late Bedtimes Associated with Worse Grades For High School Students

*National Institutes of Health* (April 2, 2024)

[Back to top.](#)

---

### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

#### 6. Weekly Calendar

##### **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**Hearing: A Review of the President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request for the Department of Health and Human Services**

**Subject:** The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee will have a budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Service’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

**Witnesses:** Xavier Becerra, secretary, Department of Health, and Human Services

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 138 Dirksen.

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

### **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

**Hearing: Fiscal Year 2025 Request for the Department of Labor**

**Subject:** The House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee will have a budget hearing on the Department of Labor's Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

**Witnesses:** Julie Su, acting secretary, Department of Labor

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building.

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

### **Webinar: Book Bans and Curriculum Censorship**

**Subject:** EdTrust will hold a webinar to convene leaders in education and civil rights to discuss pushing back against efforts to suppress the teaching of honest history and diversity of identities and ideas in school learning materials.

**Participants:** Brittany Packnett Cunningham, analyst, MSNBC; Heather Harding, executive director, Campaign for our Shared Future; Preston Mitchum, CEO, PDM Consulting, LLC; and David Johns, executive director and CEO, National Black Justice Coalition.

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**Event: Education Systems Transformation Through Inclusive Education**

**Subject:** The Brookings Institution will hold a symposium on "Education Systems Transformation for and Through Inclusive Education."

**Participants:** Timothy Shriver, chair, Special Olympics; and others.

**Time and Location:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Falk Auditorium.

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

*[Back to top.](#)*

---

## **7. Future Hearings and Events**

### **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**Event: Summit on Education: Reset. Reframe. Reform**

**Subject:** The Center for American Progress will hold a two-day event on education. The event is being billed as a way to “reset the conversation concerning education, reframing it as an essential pillar of democracy, and explore reforms that will strengthen education as a crucial vehicle for opportunity for students and their families.”

**Participants:** TBD

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

*[Back to top.](#)*

---

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

**Senate Floor:** Consideration of nominations

## House Floor:

[H.R. 4639](#) – Fourth Amendment Is Not for Sale Act (Davidson; Judiciary)

[H.R. 6192](#) – Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act (Lesko; Energy and Commerce)

[H.R. 7673](#) – Liberty in Laundry Act (Ogles; Energy and Commerce)

[H.R. 7645](#) – Clothes Dryers Reliability Act (Ezell; Energy and Commerce)

[H.R. 7637](#) – Refrigerator Freedom Act (Miller-Meeks; Energy and Commerce)

[H.R. 7626](#) – Affordable Air Conditioning Act (Crenshaw; Energy and Commerce)

[H.R. 7700](#) – Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act (Langworthy; Energy and Commerce)

[Back to top.](#)

---

## 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](#)

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

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

[Back to top.](#)

---

## 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](#).

•••

*This publication contains links to Internet sites for the convenience of World Wide Web users. Bose is not responsible for the availability or content of these external sites, nor does Bose endorse, warrant or guarantee the information, services, or products described or offered at these other Internet sites. Copyright 2022. Bose Public Affairs Group. Redistribution of this memorandum or its content outside the immediate organization of the intended recipient without the express prior permission of Bose Public Affairs Group is prohibited. Readers are encouraged to send comments about this publication to [dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com).*