



# The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

**May 6, 2024**

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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**
  - **Funding**
    - **Cardona Testifies Before Senate Appropriations Panel:** On Wednesday, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee had Secretary Miguel Cardona testify on the Department of Education's fiscal year 2025 budget request.
    - **Education Summit Underscores Importance of Federal Education Funding:** On Wednesday, the Center for American Progress (CAP) kicked off its two-day "Reset. Reframe. Reform" summit on education that focused on the need for federal education funding.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
  - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **Brookings on Addressing Youth Challenges Through Holistic Policy:** On Monday, The Brookings Institution hosted a webinar that addressed growing public concern over the opportunities and well-being of America's youth and presented a new report, "The Decisive Decade: Understanding the Trajectories of 14- to 24-year-olds."
  - **Acting Secretary Su Highlights Apprenticeships in DOL Priorities:** On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing

titled, “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Labor,” with Department of Labor (DOL) Acting Secretary Julie Su as the key witness.

- **AEI Outlines Conservative Vision for Higher Education:** On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) held a webinar where a panel of experts outlined conservative visions for improving higher education.

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

- **Walton Family Foundation Voices of Gen Z Study**

*Gallup | Walton Family Foundation (April 2024)*

To better understand not only how happy Gen Z are in their lives today, but what exactly defines and drives that sense of happiness, Gallup surveyed more than 2,000 12- to 26-year-olds about their experiences.

- **Trends in Enrollment in US Teacher Preparation Programs: 2009-2022**

*Center for Education Evaluation (March 2024)*

This report includes the most recently available data and examines the trends in US teacher preparation program enrollment and completion as reported by the Department of Education on the Title II website. While the individual state data has not been released, the overall data for all US States and territories is available.

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

- **Title IX Lawsuits Escalate: 15 States Now Suing**

*K-12 Dive (May 2, 2024)*

- **Lawmakers and Advocates Make Last-Ditch Push to Extend Affordable Internet Subsidy**

*Bloomberg Government (April 30, 2024)*

- **Survey Finds Many Gen Zers Say School Lacks a ‘Sense of Purpose’ and Isn’t ‘Motivating’**

*The 74 (April 29, 2023)*

- **Will Biden’s New Loan-Forgiveness Plan Cast a Wider Net for Educators?**

*Education Week (April 24, 2024)*

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

- **Connecting Learning to Earning:** The Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion on "Connecting Learning to Earning."

*Tuesday at 9am ET*

- **A Collective Vision for Youth Apprenticeship:** The Urban Institute will hold an event on "Setting a Collective Vision for Youth Apprenticeship: Reflecting on Early Momentum to Plan for the Future."

*Tuesday at 10am ET*

- **House Education Committee on Education Department Policies and Financial Audit:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on "Examining the Education Department's Policies, Priorities, and FY2023 Financial Audit Failure."

*Tuesday at 10:15am*

- **House Education Subcommittee on Antisemitism in K-12 Schools:** The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary

Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Confronting Pervasive Antisemitism in K-12 Schools."  
*Wednesday at 10:15am*

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Addressing Teacher Shortages Through Apprenticeship Programs:** The Learning Policy Institute will hold a webinar to examine building and sustaining high-quality registered teacher apprenticeship programs as a tool to address teacher shortages.  
*May 16 at 2pm ET*

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

- **Senate floor**
  - **H.R.3935**, An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes
  - Consideration of nominations
- **House floor**
  - **H.R. 6192** – Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act (Sponsored by Rep. Lesko / Energy and Commerce Committee)
  - **H.J. Res. 109** – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121. (Sponsored by Rep. Flood / Financial Services Committee)
  - **H.R. 2925** – Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2024 (Sponsored by Rep. Amodei / Natural Resources Committee)
  - **H.R. 7109** – Equal Representation Act (Sponsored by Rep. Edwards / Oversight and Accountability Committee)
  - An additional item related to FAA reauthorization is expected.

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

10. **About BPAG**

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1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

**FUNDING**

**CARDONA TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS PANEL**

On Wednesday, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee had Secretary Miguel Cardona testify on the Department of Education's fiscal year 2025 budget request. Many of the questions posed by the Subcommittee Members were focused on the failed roll-out of the Better FAFSA, the Department's new Title IX regulation, and antisemitism on college campuses. In her opening remarks, Subcommittee Chair Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) signaled that she planned to work in a bipartisan manner with Subcommittee Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) to pass appropriations legislation. She highlighted several key investments in the FY 2025 proposed education budget, including those supportive of childcare and universal pre-K, Title I, IDEA, as well as the cost of college and student loan debt,

and the importance of creating a skilled workforce pipeline. She specifically asked to work with Secretary Cardona to protect and sustain the Pell Grant program and expressed a commitment to helping the Secretary address the poor completion rates of the FAFSA and to ensure a smoother application process for the next year. She additionally referenced minority serving institutions and tribal colleges and expressed a desire to improve tribal college research. Following Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito noted that the Subcommittee was able to find common ground last year, but that she is also hopeful that this year's process will be bipartisan despite tight budget caps from the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*. Capito recognized that the subcommittee is prepared to make tough choices but stated that she was disappointed that the Department proposed \$140 billion in new mandatory funding for new programs like free college. Full Committee Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME) also provided opening remarks, expressing "extreme frustration" about the failed FAFSA rollout, calling it "inexcusable and inexplicable." During his testimony, Secretary Cardona's tone was more subdued than when he testified before the same House Subcommittee earlier this month, but he covered similar themes. He stated that the budget request provides \$82.4 billion in calculated investments--Title I, IDEA, English Language Learners, and college affordability--to "Raise the Bar" and adheres to the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*. He urged the subcommittee to find "common ground" on what matters for the nation's students: improving reading scores, increased access to mental health services, college and career pathways, and increasing college affordability. His final appeal was to prioritize "results, over rhetoric." A full summary on the hearing prepared by BPAG is here.

## **EDUCATION SUMMIT UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL ED FUNDING**

On Wednesday, the Center for American Progress (CAP) kicked off its two-day "Reset. Reframe. Reform" summit on education. The opening session titled, "Education and Opportunity," discussed the connection between education and opportunity during each stage of the American education system—early childhood, K-12, postsecondary, and workforce development—and explored how education policy can enhance this connection as part of future reforms. The panelists focused on early childcare, examining the issues on funding, workforce, and policy perspectives. The discussion focused on the primary challenge of childcare, and a lack of public funding, which, according to the Administration for Children and Families' Katie Hamm, leads to inequitable access to childcare. Additionally, Center on Education and Labor Director Mary Alice McCarthy highlighted how low funding harms the quality of the workforce with low wages disincentivizing the needed level of education. McCarthy and Education Department Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development Roberto Rodriguez explored alternatives to four-year postsecondary education models, such as learn and earn apprenticeships. The session emphasized the need for broader definitions of education and career readiness with robust funding to match. Another noteworthy session during the summit covered, "Funding the Future of Education," and explored education funding and public finance models that support access to quality education at all levels. The expert panel opened with each panelist describing the complex funding models across stages of education. Committee for Education Funding's (CEF) Sara Abernathy cited CEF numbers on total US education spending and compared them globally, pointing out that only a small share of US education funding is federal compared to other nations. She and The Hope Center's Mark Huelsman emphasized the challenges inherent to state and local funding that led to uncertainty and sharp funding disparities across administrative boundaries. Philip Tizzani, a professional staff member for the House Appropriations Committee, discussed the role of federal education funding in addressing these issues and its origin in Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society, which created Title I funding for low-income families. Tizzani asserted

that federal investments in education hold exciting potential for addressing inequity. Despite covering a range of educational priorities, panelists universally advocated for increased funding from more centralized and stable sources to achieve equity and address uncertainty challenges. A full recording of the summit can be found [here](#) with “Education and Opportunity” beginning at minute 7:51 and “Funding the Future of Education” beginning at hour 2:51:00.

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

This week, Members of the House scrambled to meet various deadlines set by House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK). After being appointed the new leader of the powerful panel, he shared [guidance](#) that gave Members only a few weeks to submit programmatic and language requests for the FY 2025 appropriations cycle. That timeline had advocates busily checking in with their House allies as well. There were lots of meetings this week.

In the Senate, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee [hosted Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona](#). While defending President Joe Biden’s FY 2025 budget request for the Education Department, he faced tough questions from Democrats and Republicans regarding the ongoing issues with FAFSA processing, the recently released Title IX regulations and the protests on campuses nationwide regarding the conflict in Israel and the United States’ role in it. Acting Department of Labor Julie Su [appeared](#) before the House Education and the Workforce Committee this week as well, testifying about that agency’s priorities. Secretary Cardona [will appear](#) before the same panel next week. He surely will face tough questioning once again on issues that are very familiar to him by now.

## Impact on State School Board Associations

Education funding stakeholders should continue to monitor Secretary Cardona’s visits to Capitol Hill where he is defending President Joe Biden’s FY 2025 budget request for the Department of Education (ED). President Biden’s FY 2025 ED request reflects a \$3.1 billion (4.0 percent) increase from the FY 2024 annualized Continued Resolution level. While Presidents are important actors in setting the federal budget, they are far from a unilateral actor, and Congress of course will have final say with budget numbers, and the FY 2025 funding process will likely unfold similarly to FY 2024. Congress will be in session for the next three weeks, before breaking for the Memorial Day holiday. It’s not clear if there will be any real progress on FY 2025 spending bills in that time, but advocates will be alert for any news from Chairman Cole and should start checking in with their Senate allies.

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## 3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

### **BROOKINGS ON ADDRESSING YOUTH CHALLENGES THROUGH HOLISTIC POLICY**

On Monday, The Brookings Institution hosted a webinar titled, "[The Decisive Decade? Mapping Key Trends Among Adolescents and Young Adults in the US.](#)" The webinar addressed growing public concern over the opportunities and well-being of America’s youth and presented a new report, "[The Decisive Decade: Understanding the Trajectories of 14- to 24-year-olds.](#)" authored by Richard Reeves, a Brookings nonresident senior fellow, and Ember Smith, a former research analyst for the Center on Children and Families. The report delved into demographic trends during this crucial youth transition period, highlighting correlations between education,

work, and socioeconomic experiences, as well as disparities in disconnect rates among racial and gender groups. Reeves stressed the significance of the development period between ages 14-24, advocating for a shift away from early development determinism in public policy. He underscored the importance of understanding the trajectories of young people during this period and the need for tailored interventions to address disparities in opportunities and outcomes. Lara Aknin, a professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University, contributed insights from the [World Happiness Report](#), indicating reduced life satisfaction among young North Americans due to weakened social relationships. She emphasized the importance of fostering strong social connections and highlighted the role of communities and neighborhoods in providing support networks for adolescents and young adults. Jonathan Zaff, a research professor in applied human development at Boston University, pointed to apprenticeships as an effective method for youth to receive these needed mentorships and connections. Ian Rowe, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, highlighted the subjective nature of defining success in life, while also acknowledging that certain paths may be more conducive to achieving specific goals like financial stability. Rowe cited [research by Raj Chetty](#) on the community factors influencing the achievement of life success metrics. Reeves pulled together these perspectives to discuss the importance of integrating specific data referenced by the other panelists to connect family involvement, community design, and racial disparities to develop a comprehensive understanding of the disconnection of young adults. He reiterated the need to focus on adolescent learning support. Overall, the webinar emphasized the need for holistic support systems and policies to address the challenges young people face during this transition period. A recording of this webinar can be found [here](#).

### **ACTING SEC. SU HIGHLIGHTS APPRENTICESHIPS IN DOL PRIORITIES**

On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing titled, “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Labor,” with Department of Labor (DOL) Acting Secretary Julie Su as the key witness. The hearing saw substantial partisan disagreement over the rulemaking and priorities of the DOL. In her opening statement, Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) criticized the DOL’s FY 2025 budget, stressing the detrimental impact the Department’s regulations has on American workers and businesses. In addition, she voiced concern over the state of the economy citing inflation, stagnant wages, and a job market that primarily benefits the public sector and foreign-born workers. In Acting Secretary Su’s opening testimony, she provided an overview of the DOL’s budget request, highlighting key allocations including an \$8 billion Career Training Fund, \$335 million for apprenticeship programs, \$7.5 million for additional staff to combat wage theft and child labor, and an additional \$23 million to investigate high-hazard workplaces, protect whistleblowers, and provide employers compliance assistance. Acting Secretary Su underscored the critical role these resources play in enforcing labor laws, ensuring workplace safety, and advancing worker rights. In response, Republicans questioned the legality of Acting Secretary Su’s tenure and expressed concerns regarding recent DOL regulations, particularly those impacting independent contractors, apprenticeship programs, and retirement security. In contrast, Democrats praised the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to uplifting workers and families, citing record job growth and enhanced worker protection. They defended Acting Secretary Su’s service and emphasized the importance of the DOL’s workforce development initiatives, especially in rural communities, as well as efforts to combat child labor violations and wage theft. A recording of the hearing is available [here](#).

## **AEI OUTLINES CONSERVATIVE VISION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) held a webinar where a panel of experts outlined conservative visions for improving higher education. The event featured Michael McSchane, adjunct fellow at AEI; Wayne Lewis Jr., president at Houghton University; Andy Smarick, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute; Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies at AEI; and Beth Aikers, an AEI senior fellow. Delving into the key challenges facing colleges, the panelists offered solutions to ensure higher education institutions serve as places of opportunity and inquiry. The panelists began by discussing the culture of higher education, with Lewis characterizing college campuses as ideological echo chambers with no diversity of thought. He outlined the post-pandemic challenges facing these institutions, such as academic preparedness, social and emotional wellness, and cost. In addition, Aikers and Smarick underscored the repercussions of the tumultuous FAFSA rollout, citing a concerning decline in enrollment. To address these challenges, the panelists stressed the role of university presidents and leaders in reshaping campus culture. They highlighted the responsibility of trustees in holding presidents accountable for what happens at institutions, emphasizing the importance of greater academic expectations and expanded career-oriented education. The webinar concluded with a discussion on universities' responses to pro-Palestinian demonstrations, with the panel unanimously advocating for the equal preservation of free speech, while firmly condemning all forms of harassment. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

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### **4. New Publications**

#### **Walton Family Foundation Voices of Gen Z Study**

*Gallup | Walton Family Foundation (April 2024)*

To better understand not only how happy Gen Z are in their lives today, but what exactly defines and drives that sense of happiness, Gallup surveyed more than 2,000 12- to 26-year-olds about their experiences.

#### **Trends in Enrollment in US Teacher Preparation Programs: 2009-2022**

*Center for Education Evaluation (March 2024)*

This report includes the most recently available data and examines the trends in US teacher preparation program enrollment and completion as reported by the Department of Education on the Title II website. While the individual state data has not been released, the overall data for all US States and territories is available.

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

#### **Title IX Lawsuits Escalate: 15 States Now Suing**

*K-12 Dive (May 2, 2024)*

#### **Lawmakers and Advocates Make Last-Ditch Push to Extend Affordable Internet Subsidy**

*Bloomberg Government (April 30, 2024)*

#### **Survey Finds Many Gen-Zers Say School Lacks a 'Sense of Purpose' and Isn't 'Motivating'**

The 74 (April 29, 2024)

**Will Biden's New Loan-Forgiveness Plan Cast a Wider Net for Educators?**

*Education Week* (April 24, 2024)

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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### 6. Weekly Calendar

#### Tuesday, May 7, 2024

**Webinar: Connecting Learning to Earning**

**Subject:** The Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion on "Connecting Learning to Earning."

**Participants:** Tom Kaye, senior adviser in global programmes, Generation Unlimited; Michael Trucano, visiting fellow in global economy and development, Brookings Institution's Center for Universal Education; Colin Reynolds, senior education designer, Education Design Lab; William O'Keefe, policy officer, European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises; and Juan Baron, senior economist in education global practice, World Bank Group.

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

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

**Event: A Collective Vision for Youth Apprenticeship**

**Subject:** The Urban Institute will hold an event on "Setting a Collective Vision for Youth Apprenticeship: Reflecting on Early Momentum to Plan for the Future."

**Participants:** Kristen Rhinehart-Fernandez, director, Office of Apprenticeship Investments Division, U.S. Department of Labor; Megan Baird, deputy administrator, Office of Apprenticeship; U.S. Department of Labor; and others.

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Urban Institute, 500 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C.

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

**Hearing: House Education Committee on Education Department Policies and Financial Audit**

**Subject:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on "Examining the Education Department's Policies, Priorities, and FY2023 Financial Audit Failure."

**Witness:** Miguel Cardona, secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

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

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

#### Wednesday, May 8, 2024

**Hearing: House Education Subcommittee on Antisemitism in K-12 Schools**



**Subject:** The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Confronting Pervasive Antisemitism in K-12 Schools."

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

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

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## 7. Future Hearings and Events

### Thursday, May 16, 2024

#### **Webinar: Addressing State Teacher Shortages Through Apprenticeship Programs**

**Subject:** The Learning Policy Institute will hold a webinar to examine building and sustaining high-quality registered teacher apprenticeship programs as a tool to address teacher shortages.

**Participants:** Lisa Barron, associate dean and director of teacher education and partnerships, Austin Peay State University; Erin Crisp, executive director, Tennessee Grow Your Own; Cindy Gutierrez, clinical teacher education & office of partnerships director, University of Colorado Denver; Hanna Melnick, senior policy advisor, Learning Policy Institute; Maureen Tracey-Mooney, senior advisor, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education; and Randi Wolf, executive director, Early Care & Education Pathways to Success.

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

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## 8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

### Senate Floor:

- [H.R.3935](#), An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes
- Consideration of nominations

### House Floor:

- [H.R. 6192](#) – Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Lesko / Energy and Commerce Committee*)
- [H.J. Res. 109](#) – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121. (*Sponsored by Rep. Flood / Financial Services Committee*)
- [H.R. 2925](#) – Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2024 (*Sponsored by Rep. Amodei / Natural Resources Committee*)
- [H.R. 7109](#) – Equal Representation Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Edwards / Oversight and Accountability Committee*)
- *An additional item related to FAA reauthorization is expected.*

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## 9. Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events

[U.S. House and Senate 2024 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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### 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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