



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

JULY 15, 2024

Jared Solomon, Editor

jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com

Della Cronin, Editor

dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com

Bob Moran, Editor

rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

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**
 - **Funding**
 - **Appropriators Advance FY 2025 ED, USDA Funding Bills:** On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee approved its fiscal year 2025 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill by a 31-25 vote, advancing a \$185.8 billion measure – 11 percent below current funding levels. The House and Senate also advanced the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration bill.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Senate Education Panel Examines Inflation Impact on Children, Families:** On Tuesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Subcommittee on Children and Families held a hearing titled, “Everyday Expenses and Everyday Americans: How High Costs Impact Children and Families.”
 - **Senate Finance Panel Looks at State of US Childcare:** On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Finance held a hearing titled, “Examining the State of Child Care: How Federal Policy Solutions Can Support Families, Close Existing Gaps, and Strengthen Economic Growth.”

- **House Education Committee Passes FAFSA Deadline, Other Measures:** On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee marked up several bills, including H.R. 8932, the **FAFSA Deadline Act**.

4. **New Publications**

- **12 Facts About the Economics of Education**

Brookings (June 2024)

The 12 facts outlined here take stock of secondary and postsecondary education in the United States, discuss the economic opportunities education provides, and note efforts to foster innovation in public education.

5. **In the News**

- **Locking In a FAFSA Deadline**

Inside Higher Ed (July 11, 2024)

- **House Committee Approves 25% Cut to Title I**

K-12 Dive (July 11, 2024)

- **Many Americans Think K-12 STEM Ed Lags Behind Peer Nations. They're Half-Right**

The 74 (July 11, 2024)

- **Project 2025 Would Radically Overhaul Higher Ed. Here's How.**

Inside Higher Ed (July 11, 2024)

- **What the 2024 GOP Platform Says About K-12 and What It Would Mean if Trump Wins**

Education Week (July 10, 2024)

- **Virginia to Restrict Student Cellphone Use in K-12 Policies**

ABC News (July 10, 2024)

- **How the Chevron Ruling Could Affect K-12 Policies**

K-12 Dive (July 9, 2024)

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

- **Event on Chronic Absenteeism:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a discussion on "Coming Together on Chronic Absenteeism: Schools' Top Priority This Year."

Wednesday at 4pm ET

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

- Congress is in recess July 22.

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

9. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

FUNDING

APPROPRIATORS ADVANCE FY 2025 ED, USDA FUNDING BILLS

On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee approved its fiscal year 2025 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill by a 31-25 vote, advancing a \$185.8 billion measure – 11 percent below current funding levels. No Democrats supported the measure. The Labor-HHS-Education bill was the first of three appropriations bills marked up during Wednesday’s proceedings, which lasted 12 hours. The markup saw three education-related amendments offered: An amendment offered by Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) that would have added \$4.7 billion for Title I was rejected by a vote of 26-31; Committee Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL) offered an amendment *en bloc* that cut \$10 million from the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and added \$10 million for Charter Schools, which passed by a vote of 33-24. Lastly, Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL) offered a second-degree amendment to Chair Aderholt’s amendment that would have stricken the \$10 million cut to OCR and simply add \$10 million to Charter Schools, which failed by a vote of 26-33. Ultimately, the bill provides a discretionary total of \$72 billion for the Department of Education, which is 13 percent below the fiscal year 2024 enacted level and \$14.5 billion below the President’s Budget Request. House Democrats said the bill would cut domestic programs too deeply and would undercut education programs. “This bill does not take care of the health of our people or the education of our children,” Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said. The second bill marked up by Committee was the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development funding bill, while the final bill – the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration bill (Ag-FDA) – advanced late into the night. The bill, which funds the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and school meal programs, was approved by a vote of 29 to 26. The bill provides \$31.7 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, which is \$1.5 billion below the fiscal year 2024 enacted level and includes mandatory funding for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Summer Food Programs. It also provides \$7.2 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), \$205 million above the fiscal year 2024 enacted level to account for inflation. Furthermore, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday advanced their fiscal year Ag-FDA bill. Unlike efforts in the House, the Senate Committee was able to advance a bipartisan bill unanimously. The bill “fully funds critical programs that help kids get healthy meals at school and over the summer, including through the Summer EBT program I helped establish,” said Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA). According to the Committee’s bill summary, in 2025, the funding will help serve an estimated 5 billion lunches and 2.7 billion breakfasts to kids across the country. It also fully funds WIC— which serves 7 million women and kids nationwide. Information on the House Appropriations bills is [here](#), and the Senate is [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Last week, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) made significant progress toward his goal of winning House approval for all twelve FY 2025 spending bills before the August recess. When Congress returns to Washington, DC, the week of July 22nd (after this week’s GOP Convention), four bills are expected on the floor. Leaving the most difficult bills for last, the Commerce, Justice Science (CJS), Transportation-HUD (THUD), and Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) spending measures could optimistically see floor action

the week of July 29th. Of course, there could be some obstacles for Chairman Cole, since floor debate of the FY 2025 Legislative Branch measure didn't go as planned last week.

In the meantime, the Senate started serious work on FY 2025 appropriations bills last week as well. On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved FY 2025 allocations for its twelve subcommittees and marked up its first three bills: Legislative Branch, Agriculture, and Military Construction-VA. Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME) reached a bipartisan agreement to add to the allocations the extra \$69 billion in “side deal” funding that was part of the agreement when the Fiscal Responsibility Act imposed caps on defense and non-defense discretionary funding for FY 2024 and FY 2025. They also will add an extra \$13.5 billion in emergency non-defense funding and \$21 billion in emergency defense funding. Neither the “side deal” funding nor the emergency funding is included in the Senate’s official allocation for the Committee or the Subcommittees. The extra money will be added as the bills are considered. Without counting any of the extra funding still to be allocated, the Senate Labor-HHS-Education total of \$198.655 billion is \$14.1 billion (7.6%) higher than the House bill, and \$4.2 billion (2.2%) higher than the comparable FY 2024 level. That’s good news for education advocates.

Regardless of all the time and effort invested in the FY 2025 appropriations process last week, final bills won’t reach any president’s desk until after the November elections. And, maybe not even until the New Year. Chairman Cole will hopefully detail plans for keeping the government open during campaign season soon.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Last week the House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2025 LHHS package. On Wednesday, Committee members and their staff endured a 12-hour mark up of three spending bills, including the largest non-defense spending bill. Ultimately, the measure, which would invest \$67.9 billion in the Department of Education (ED), was approved via a 31-25 party-line vote, but not until many Democratic members voiced opposition to the bill and its proposed funding for the agency, including a potential 25 percent cut to Title I funds and the gutting of programs that support educators.

Cuts to Title I and ED’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) were particularly concerning for Committee Democrats. Subcommittee Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) said the cuts to the program that supports schools nationwide in poor communities were justified by the falling achievement scores of students in public schools, despite the \$190 billion in federal pandemic aid that schools received during both the Trump and Biden administrations. As for the cuts to OCR, the Subcommittee leader cited disagreements with ED’s Title IX regulations set to go into effect on August 1, 2024, as a reason for the cut, while his Democratic colleagues argued that funds for the office were desperately needed to address increased complaints related to antisemitism since the October 7th attack on Israel.

Assuming the LHHS bill is debated on the House floor later this month, Chairman Cole could face some problems from his fellow Republicans. Last year, when the House proposed devastating cuts to Title I and other programs, ones ultimately rejected by the Senate and White House, the House never debated the House proposal on the floor. That saved moderate Republicans from deciding whether to support cuts to programs important to their districts or support their party leaders. It’s

an Election Year, and it's difficult to believe that those issues aren't still a concern for some Republicans.

[Back to top.](#)

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

SENATE EDUCATION PANEL EXAMINES INFLATION IMPACT ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES

On Tuesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Subcommittee on Children and Families held a hearing titled, “Everyday Expenses and Everyday Americans: How High Costs Impact Children and Families.” Witnesses included Erin Wiggle, a consumer in Worcester Township, PA; Daniel Lee, the owner of Farina Noodle and Pasta; Emily Gee, senior vice president of the Center for American Progress; and David Malpass, former president of the World Bank Group. In his opening statement, Chair Bob Casey (D-PA) attributed the rise in everyday costs to corporate greed and price gouging, citing how corporate profits rose five times the rate of inflation from July 2020 to July 2022. He referred to the inflation affecting the country as “greedflation” and spotlighted his [bill](#) to crack down on corporate price gouging. In contrast, Ranking Member Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) and David Malpass blamed the Biden-Harris Administration’s economic policies for high costs, advocating instead for unleashing the power of the free market through tax cuts and deregulation. Congress members and witnesses specifically highlighted childcare as one of the biggest costs for families across the country, noting how many families spend above the 7 percent federal affordability benchmark. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) emphasized the importance of having a long-term strategy to increase access to childcare and support childcare providers. In response, Dr. Emily Gee recommended improving the affordability of childcare to ensure families do not exceed the 7 percent benchmark and increasing the wages of childcare providers. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) expanded on this by discussing her [Childcare for Working Families Act](#), stressing that programs like the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start serve as lifelines for working families. In addition, Dr. Gee recommended extending the Child Tax Credit in response to Chair Casey’s questioning. The hearing also touched on a range of other topics, including healthcare costs, food delivery service fees, and energy independence. A recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

SENATE FINANCE PANEL LOOKS AT STATE OF US CHILDCARE

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Finance held a hearing titled, “Examining the State of Child Care: How Federal Policy Solutions Can Support Families, Close Existing Gaps, and Strengthen Economic Growth.” The hearing featured Fatima Goss Graves, president and CEO of the National Women’s Law Center; Megan Pratt, assistant professor of practice at Oregon State University; Katharine Stevens, founder and president of the Center on Child and Family Policy; and Ryan Page, director of childcare at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. In his opening statement, Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) emphasized the need to address systemic issues in the childcare sector and ensure affordable childcare for working families. He highlighted past Democratic efforts like the *American Rescue Plan* and proposed legislation such as the [Building Child Care for a Better Future Act](#) to boost funding and improve the wages of child care providers. Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-ID) and his Republican colleagues agreed on the importance of childcare for families and the economy but argued for state-led solutions. They cautioned against federal mandates and regulatory expansions, suggesting these could increase costs, reduce accessibility, and negatively impact faith-based providers. Instead, they argued that federal childcare dollars could be best maximized by targeting families most in need, promoting

parental choice, and breaking down bureaucratic silos. Focusing on rural areas, Republicans also underscored the importance of leveraging public-private partnerships to enhance access to childcare. Closing out the line of questioning, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) emphasized the potential for significant tax code reforms in 2025 to permanently enhance the Child Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, highlighting its ability to reduce childcare costs. The recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE PASSES FAFSA DEADLINE, OTHER MEASURES

On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee marked up several bills, including H.R. 8932, the *FAFSA Deadline Act*; H.R. 2574, the *EMS Counts Act*; H.R. 2941, the *Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act*; H.R. 6319, the *Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2023*; and H.J. Res. 142, the *Congressional Review Act* resolution to stop Biden’s fiduciary rule. The *FAFSA Deadline Act* advanced by a vote of 34-6. The measure aims to rectify the recent tumultuous Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) rollout by establishing a statutory deadline of October 1 for releasing the form. In her opening remarks, Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) expressed support for the bill, arguing that a set deadline would provide increased clarity and stability for students, families, and schools. However, Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) and several of his Democratic colleagues contended that imposing an arbitrary, accelerated deadline on the Department of Education without additional resources or technical support might exacerbate existing issues. Ranking Member Scott argued that the bill failed to advance meaningful solutions and was introduced merely to score political points across the aisle. In addition, Representative Bob Good (R-VA) proposed an amendment to the bill requiring the Department of Education to certify to Congress one month in advance that the FAFSA application would be ready by the October 1 deadline. If not, the Secretary of Education would be required to testify before the Committee. This amendment was agreed to by a voice vote and included support from Ranking Member Scott. Further, the *Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act* passed unanimously. This bill directs the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to create a separate code for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), ensuring that necessary data is readily available to address workforce challenges. DSPs provide necessary supports and services to people with disabilities of all ages, including supports related to employment. The *EMS Counts Act*, the *Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2023*, and the *Congressional Review Act* resolution to stop Biden’s fiduciary rule were also passed. The vote record on each of the bills and other amendments offered can be found [here](#), in addition to a recording of the hearing.

[*Back to top.*](#)

4. New Publications

12 Facts About The Economics of Education

Brookings (June 2024)

The 12 facts outlined here take stock of secondary and postsecondary education in the United States, discuss the economic opportunities education provides, and note efforts to foster innovation in public education.

[*Back to top.*](#)

5. In the News

Locking In a FAFSA Deadline

Inside Higher Ed (July 11, 2024)

House Committee Approves 25% Cut to Title I

K-12 Dive (July 11, 2024)

Many Americans Think K-12 STEM Ed Lags Behind Peer Nations. They're Half-Right

The 74 (July 11, 2024)

Project 2025 Would Radically Overhaul Higher Ed. Here's How.

Inside Higher Ed (July 11, 2024)

What the 2024 GOP Platform Says About K-12 and What It Would Mean If Trump Wins

Education Week (July 10, 2024)

Virginia to Restrict Student Cellphone Use in K-12 Public Schools

ABC News (July 10, 2024)

How the Chevron Ruling Could Affect K-12 Policies

K-12 Dive (July 9, 2024)

[Back to top.](#)

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Event: Chronic Absenteeism

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a discussion on "Coming Together on Chronic Absenteeism: Schools' Top Priority This Year."

Participants: Denise Forte, president, The Education Trust; Hedy Chang, founder, Attendance Works; Nat Malkus, deputy director of education policy studies, AEI; Caitlin Codella Low, vice president, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Lisa Coons, superintendent of public instruction, Virginia Department of Education; Angelica Infante-Green, commissioner of elementary and secondary education, Rhode Island Department of Education; and Tiffany Anderson, superintendent, Topeka Public Schools.

Time: 4:00 PM ET

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

[Back to top.](#)

7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Congress is in recess through July 22.

[Back to top.](#)

8. 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](#)

[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.