



# The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

**AUGUST 5, 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)

**Reminder** – Because of the Congressional Recess, the Weekly Ed Report will be on break for the month of August and will resume on Monday, September 16.

*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**
    - **Senate Appropriations Committee Marks Up Education Funding Bill:** On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee moved a series of bills, including the fiscal year 2025 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill. The measure passed by a vote of 25-3 with Senators Baldwin (D-WI) and Capito-Moore (R-WV) indicating it was a bipartisan bill.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
  - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **Experts Examine Efforts to Address K-12 Language Education:** On Tuesday, the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL) held an in-person event titled, “Federal Efforts to Address the Crisis in K-12 Language Education.”
  - **Senate Passes Child Online Safety Bills:** On Tuesday, the Senate approved an online safety package that includes two bills aimed at protecting children and teens online. The bipartisan measures passed by a vote of 91-3, and the measure now awaits consideration in the House.

- **Senate Commerce Committee Approves AI Education Proposal:** On Thursday, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee met to consider pending bills, including several that address Artificial Intelligence (AI). Among the bills approved by the panel was the bipartisan *NSF AI Education Act*.

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

- **How Do Two-Generation Approaches Effect Educational, Economic, and Social Outcomes for Whole Families?**

*Urban Institute (July 29, 2024)*

Two-generation approaches are holistic interventions aimed at aligning services with families' economic, social, and educational goals to simultaneously improve the outcomes of children and caregivers. In this study, the Urban Institute assessed the effectiveness of Vimenti, an integrated service center and school for families in Puerto Rico that provides a variety of family services using a two-generation approach.

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

- **Financial Barriers Prevented Low-Income Students from Accessing Summer Learning**

*K-12 Dive (July 31, 2024)*

- **Biden's Title IX Rule Takes Effect Amid a Confusing Legal Landscape**

*Education Week (July 31, 2024)*

- **FCC Unveils 3-Year Cybersecurity Pilot Program for Schools, Libraries**

*Statescoop (July 30, 2024)*

- **Project 2025 to End Policy Work After Democratic Attacks Angered Trump**

*The Washington Post (July 30, 2024)*

- **Book Bans Are Not Just Bad Policy: They Can Raise Civil Rights Issues**

*Homeroom | US Department of Education (July 29, 2024)*

- **What Does Universal Service Fund Ruling Mean for E-Rate?**

*K-12 Dive (July 26, 2024)*

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

- The House and Senate are in recess.

#### 7. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**

#### 8. **About BPAG**

## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### FUNDING

#### SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKS UP EDUCATION FUNDING BILL

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee moved a series of bills, including the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 **Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill** (LHHS). The measure passed by a vote of 25-3 with Senators Baldwin (D-WI) and Capito-Moore (R-WV) indicating it was a bipartisan bill. Unlike the House bill which contains significant cuts, this legislation bill provides \$80 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of

Education. The measure provides a two percent increase to Title I-A grants to schools and the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) for a total of \$18.687 billion and \$14.5 billion, respectively. The LHHS bill summary is [here](#), and the bill report is [here](#). The Senate has passed 11 out of 12 appropriations measures through the Senate Appropriations Committee. In the House, all 12 measures have passed through the House Appropriations Committee--primarily through a party-line vote—and three appropriations measures have passed the House floor.

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee met to [approve a slate of Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2025 spending bills](#), including the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) plan. In contrast to the House, the panel worked in a bipartisan manner to debate and pass the bills. The LHHS proposal passed by a vote of 25-3. Regarding its passage, Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) said, “This bill makes major new investments to help Americans in every part of the country get a great education, make ends meet, and get the support and services they need to stay healthy and thrive. As families struggle to afford childcare and our economy suffers the consequences, this bill delivers \$2.3 billion more to help families get the childcare and pre-K they need to ensure their kids are safe and cared for...It provides new resources to support our K-12 schools and help students pursue a higher education.” (A summary of the bill is available [here](#).)

The Senate Appropriations Committee has now approved 11 of 12 annual spending bills. The House Appropriations Committee has signed off on all 12 of its bills but ran into problems trying to win approval for several of those bills on the floor week before last. Originally, the House LHHS bill was slated for consideration but that never happened. Consideration of appropriations’ bills were so problematic that the chamber left for their August recess a week early. When Congress returns to Washington, on September 9<sup>th</sup>, they will be focused on addressing FY 2025 spending, since the end of the fiscal year will come only three weeks later. It is assumed that there will be a temporary spending bill or “continuing resolution” of some length to be determined, and perhaps an emergency supplemental spending bill to address various disasters across the country. It’s unclear how many, if any, bills will see floor debate in either chamber in September—or at all—or if staff will start working on compromise bills that will be considered in the Lame Duck session or perhaps in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The House and Senate are in recess through September 9<sup>th</sup>. As is the case each August, advocates, staff, and the many others who work on Capitol Hill (or whose work is driven by Capitol Hill) are looking forward to a slower pace. September will be here soon enough and those three weeks between Members’ return and the end of the fiscal year will be harried. Education advocates are ready to convey their preference for the more generous Senate LHHS bill then, which once again means our Federal Advocacy Conference is well timed.

## How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The education funding bill provides \$80 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Education. Given the constraints of the spending caps imposed on the bill by the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*, education advocates were not optimistic about substantial increases, but hoped the Senate would rebuff the cuts the Education Department would see under the House bill. Those hopes were realized. Most programs were level funded, but there were some notable proposed increases. Title I, which would be cut significantly by the House bill, would see an increase of

\$280 million over FY 2024, bringing the program to \$18.687 billion. IDEA state grant program funds would be increased by \$295 million, to \$14.509 billion. The bill also provides \$895 million, an increase of \$5 million, for the English Language Acquisition program, which supports the country's five million English learners. It invests an additional \$20 million in the Impact Aid program, raising the program's funding to \$1.645 billion for more than 1,000 public school districts that receive funds, including those serving students residing on Tribal lands and military bases. The bill also includes \$70 million for the Teacher Quality Partnership program—a program that would be eliminated by the House bill—and \$15 million for the Hawkins Centers of Excellence to help educator preparation programs address educator shortages. It also continues other investments available to recruit, develop, and retain an effective and diverse teacher and school leader workforce, including \$90 million for the Supporting Effective Educator Development program.

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

#### **EXPERTS EXAMINE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS K-12 LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

On Tuesday, the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL) held an in-person event titled, “Federal Efforts to Address the Crisis in K-12 Language Education.” The briefing, moderated by Amanda Seewald, executive director of JNCL-NCLIS, featured a panel of education and world language experts – Susanna Bailey, instructional supervisor for World Language & Dual Language Immersion at the Newport News Public Schools Department of Teaching and Learning; Kathleen Facon, partnership and resources chief for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA); Donald Gentile, foreign language group chief for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and April Wawryk, grant director for Project HELLO at North Hanover Public Schools. Seewald began by underscoring the need for more foreign language speakers, highlighting the growing employment gap in this area. Gentile and Facon expanded on this, stressing that foreign language abilities are mission-critical skills vital for the nation's intelligence and national defense interests. They highlighted the importance of having a strong K-12 language pipeline to fill these employment needs, with Gentile specifically emphasizing the need for more speakers in languages like Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Farsi, and Korean. To address this issue, Seewald outlined three key federal language education initiatives: the *World Language Education Assistance Program (World Leap) Act* ([H.R.5603](#)); the *Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching (BEST) Act* ([H.R.7007/S.3596](#)); and the World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program (WLARP). On the topic of WLARP grants, Wawryk shared insights on how these grants have positively impacted her school district by increasing the teacher workforce, enhancing the frequency of language lessons, and fostering a deeper cultural connection among students. She also cited [data](#) showing that these efforts have led to higher language proficiency levels in elementary grades. The panelists concluded by highlighting the importance of providing targeted support for teachers, emphasizing how support for teachers and these federal initiatives is crucial for the growth and sustainability of world language programs across the country.

#### **SENATE PASSES CHILD ONLINE SAFETY BILLS**

On Tuesday, the Senate approved an [online safety package](#) that includes two bills aimed at protecting children and teens online. The bipartisan measures passed by a vote of 91-3, and the measure now awaits consideration in the House. As mentioned last week, the *Kids Online Safety Act* (KOSA) would require social media companies to implement safety measures to limit product

design features that pose risks to children. The bill would also give parents new controls to protect their children online. Meanwhile, the *Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act*, (COPPA 2.0) would expand a 1998 [law](#) of a similar name that requires websites to obtain consent from parents before collecting information on children younger than 13. Under the bill, it would also apply to teens ages 13 through 16 as well as online and mobile apps. This action marks the first time in decades Congress has taken action to regulate the tech industry, but the measure still faces hurdles to passage in the House. Republicans and Democrats in the House have expressed concerns from civil rights and tech industry groups that the bill could lead to censorship and inadvertently worsen user privacy protections. House members introduced companion bills, but they stalled in committee. The legislative calendar and competing priorities also present complications. In the absence of federal action, 15 states have enacted laws covering related issues, including social media design code and age verification, within the past three years.

### **SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE APPROVES AI EDUCATION PROPOSAL**

On Thursday, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee met to consider pending bills, including several that address Artificial Intelligence (AI). Among the bills approved by the panel was [the bipartisan NSF AI Education Act](#). Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (D-WA) said of the bill's passage, "Our National Science Foundation Artificial Intelligence Education Act will open doors to AI for students at all levels, and upskill our workforce to drive American tech innovation, entrepreneurship and progress in solving the toughest global challenges." The bill would expand educational opportunities to study artificial intelligence and quantum with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF). It would authorize the agency to award undergraduate and graduate scholarships in AI, quantum hybrid, and quantum, including scholarships focused on the use of AI in agriculture, education, and advanced manufacturing. The bill would create fellowships for professional development for those already in the STEM and education workforce. It would require NSF to work with educators and academics to create guidance to introduce AI skills and education in K-12 classrooms and create Centers of Excellence at community colleges. It would also create grants for AI research, development, and training in agriculture through Land-Grant Universities and the Cooperative Extension Service. Leaders of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee planned to introduce their version of the legislation and mark it up this week, but the early departure for recess cut that effort short. Presumably, the House Committee will consider a similar measure later this year. More information, including amendments and legislative text, is available [here](#).

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

##### **How Do Two-Generation Approaches Affect Educational, Economic, and Social Outcomes for Whole Families?**

*Urban Institute* (July 29, 2024)

Two-generation approaches are holistic interventions aimed at aligning services with families' economic, social, and educational goals to simultaneously improve the outcomes of children and caregivers. In this study, the Urban Institute assessed the effectiveness of Vimenti, an integrated service center and school for families in Puerto Rico that provides a variety of family services using a two-generation approach.

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## 5. In the News

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## 6. On The Floor of Congress This Week

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## 7. 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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## 8. 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

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- Policy Events

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