



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

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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**

- **ED Awards Over \$67M for Diversifying Schools:** On October 1, The Department of Education (ED) announced \$65.4 million in 12 new Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) awards and \$1.7 million for two new awards under the Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Grant Program (FDS).

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

• **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **ED Convenes Family Engagement Evidence Briefing:** On Monday, the Department of Education (ED) hosted a half-day virtual event on family engagement in schools. The event hosted 23 speakers, with keynote remarks from Education Secretary Miguel Cardona.
- **ED Provides Resources to Support Hurricane-Impacted Communities:** In response to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, the Department of Education (ED) is offering support to students, families, and schools. The ED's response includes guidance, on-the-ground support and technical assistance.
- **Biden-Harris Administration Exceeds Tutor, Mentor Recruitment Goal:** At a White House event on Thursday, Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, in coordination with the Department of Education (ED), AmeriCorps, and the

Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University, **announced** that the National Partnership for Student Success (NPSS) has exceeded President Joe Biden’s call to recruit an additional 250,000 adults into high-impact student roles by summer 2025 to support academic success for all students.

4. New Publications

- **Tutor CoPilot: A Human-AI Approach for Scaling Real-Time Expertise**
National Student Support Accelerator (October 2024)
NSSA introduces Tutor CoPilot, a novel Human-AI approach that leverages a model of expert thinking to provide expert-like guidance to tutors as they tutor. This study presents the first randomized controlled trial of a Human-AI system in live tutoring, involving 900 tutors and 1,800 K-12 students from historically under-served communities.
- **Reducing Chronic Absenteeism: Lessons from Community Schools**
Learning Policy Institute (October 2024)
This report examines how four California community schools—Buena Vista Horace Mann, Elk Hills Elementary, Helen Keller Elementary, and Lucille Roybal-Allard Elementary—significantly reduced their chronic absenteeism rates post-pandemic. Drawing on interviews with school leaders and personnel, it highlights proactive and interventionist attendance strategies that have enabled these schools to reduce chronic absenteeism. Insights from these efforts can guide educators and policymakers nationwide in addressing attendance challenges effectively.

5. In the News

- **K-12 Reading and Math Scores Inch Upward, but are Still Below Pre-Pandemic Levels**
The Press Democrat (October 10, 2024)
- **Trump Drives the Education Debate with Big, Contradictory Ideas**
The Washington Post (October 10, 2024)
- **Chicago Mayor on the Defensive Following Mass School Board Resignation**
ABC News (October 9, 2024)
- **Biden-Harris Administration Issues Final Rule to Replace Lead Pipes Within a Decade, Announces New Funding to Deliver Clean Drinking Water to Schools and Homes**
The White House (October 8, 2024)
- **What K-12 Should Know as SCOTUS Begins October 2024 Term**
K-12 Dive (October 7, 2024)
- **Oklahoma’s Catholic Charter School Asks U.S. Supreme Court for Review**
The 74 (October 7, 2024)
- **FCC Releases Cybersecurity Resource Guide for Budget-Constrained Schools**
K-12 Dive (October 4, 2024)
- **Indiana Governor’s Race: School Choice and Parent’s Rights vs. Academic Freedom**
The 74 (October 3, 2024)
- **Do Cellphone Bans in Middle School Work? It’s Complicated.**

KQED / NPR / PBS (September 25, 2024)

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

- **Statewide Strategies for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism**: FutureEd will hold a webinar to explore Rhode Island's innovative cross-sector, data-driven approach to improve chronic absenteeism.
Tuesday at 1pm ET
- **A New Framework for Elementary Education**: New America will hold a webinar on "Learning, Joy, and Equity: A New Framework for Elementary Education."
Tuesday at 2pm ET
- **Youth in Teacher Apprenticeship Pathways: How to TAP Into Youth in Education**: New America will hold a webinar on youth in teacher apprenticeships and how this new model is shown to have an impact on the future of the educator workforce.
Thursday at 2pm ET
- **Reexamining Online Education**: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual discussion on "Is It Time for a Fresh Look at Online Education?"
Thursday at 4pm ET

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Building Stronger Teacher Pipelines Through University-District Partnerships**: Fostering stronger teacher pipelines that result in better-prepared teachers who are more likely to remain in the teaching profession.
October 22 at 3pm ET
- **AI Toolkit for Safe, Ethical, and Equitable AI Integration**: The U.S. Department of Education will hold a webinar to highlight the newly released guide, The Educational Leaders' Artificial Intelligence Toolkit, including guidance for integrating AI safely, ethically, and effectively.
October 24 at 1pm ET

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

- Congress is in recess.

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

10. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

FUNDING

ED AWARDS OVER \$67M FOR DIVERSIFYING SCHOOLS

On October 1, The Department of Education (ED) **announced** \$65.4 million in 12 new Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) awards and \$1.7 million for two new awards under the Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Grant Program (FDS). These awards build on the \$20 million in MSAP grants the ED announced in May ahead of the 70th anniversary of the *Brown v.*

Board of Education decision. The MSAP awards will support 37 magnet schools with academically challenging and innovative instructional approaches designed to bring together students from different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. Meanwhile, the FDS awards will support voluntary local and state efforts to enrich student educational experiences and create more diverse and inclusive school communities. “When students learn alongside those from different backgrounds, their horizons broaden, and more equitable access to enriching, well-rounded education can be achieved,” said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “These new awards will help us raise the bar for academic achievement and educational equity—supporting schools and districts in building enriching, diverse, and inclusive school communities.” The list of awardees can be found [here](#).

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

With Members of Congress on the campaign trail this month, there isn’t any progress to report on FY 2025 spending. While they are away, however, there have been events featuring advocates and pundits predicting what might happen during the lame duck session. The predictions aren’t surprising and always include the caveat, “Depending on the results of the election…”

In the meantime, October hurricanes have been testing federal programs. Recently, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell warned that some of the agency’s longer-term work could stop in December, as she continues to track “how quickly we’re burning the remaining dollars” in the disaster relief fund. Efforts would cover “immediate needs,” like search and rescue efforts and temporary housing for disaster survivors. That means a lame duck will almost certainly add emergency disaster aid to its to-do list.

All the while, election day--November 5th--inches closer.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Action on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is expected during the lame duck session. That measure could host action in a number of other areas—health care, child online privacy legislation and AI among them. Education initiatives like updating the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Education Sciences Reform Act have not been features of these discussions.

Regarding FY 2025 spending, most predict that the FY 2025 spending will be resolved by the end of the year. Some have said that if Republicans manage to win the White House, flip control of the Senate and maintain leadership of the House, they could delay action on spending bills to the 119th Congress to pursue the cuts they prefer. Of course, even if the Senate is controlled by Republicans next year, they will need to negotiate with their Democratic colleagues, meaning draconian cuts are still unlikely. And, some say a clean sweep from the Republicans could lead the GOP to support wrapping up FY 2025 spending so they can take on 2025 with their forward-looking agenda.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED CONVENES FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVIDENCE BRIEFING

On Monday, the Department of Education (ED) hosted a half-day virtual event on family engagement in schools. The event hosted 23 speakers, with keynote remarks from Education

Secretary Miguel Cardona. The event built upon the ED’s previous “[Family Engagement Learning Series](#),” which kicked off last year to elevate growing evidence in the field of family engagement in education. There were six panels throughout the day that highlighted how family engagement leads to increased student success. Harvard professor Dr. Karen Mapp and Dr. Anne Henderson, senior consultant for the National Association for School and Community Engagement, provided institutional knowledge on the impact of family engagement. The presentation from Dr. Mapp and Dr. Henderson underscored the idea that “everyone wins” with the existence of a robust family-school partnership. Each speaker distinctly highlighted the net benefits of educators engaging with families when it comes to increasing student success rates, stemming mostly through parent-teacher home visits. The visits are not an assessment by the school, but an avenue to build meaningful relationships between teachers, students, and their families. The data presented show a positive correlation between parents who are heavily engaged in school events – particularly through regular parent-teacher conferences – often resulting in improved academic and social-skills in students. In agreement, Secretary Cardona in his remarks voiced that families are integral parts of school communities. “It’s not our job to say this is how family engagement is done. It’s our job to say it’s important,” said Cardona. Education Department resources on family engagement can be found [here](#).

ED PROVIDES RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HURRICANE-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

In response to [Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, the Department of Education \(ED\) is offering support to students, families, and schools](#). The ED’s response includes guidance, on-the-ground support and technical assistance. Many of these resources include information on recovery needs; restoring learning environments; flexibilities to help institutions of higher education continue to manage the federal financial aid programs; and automatically enrolling affected borrowers with missed payments into a natural disaster forbearance, which will count toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and income-driven repayment (IDR) forgiveness. The ED’s Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) is working with federal recovery partners to support disaster recovery and connect education entities with disaster recovery experts. The DRU reached out to state educational agencies and over 500 institutions of higher education in impacted disaster areas to inform them of financial assistance opportunities such as Project SERV funds to support local educational agencies and institutions of higher education in restoring a safe environment conducive to learning. Specific resources shared by the ED include: The [National Center for Homeless Education](#); the [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools \(REMS\) Technical Assistance \(TA\) Center](#); the [Center for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#); and the [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center | Disaster Planning and Trauma Response Page](#). The ED’s office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) has also shared guidance with hundreds of schools located in the areas impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton on how natural disasters impact the administration of financial aid. A White House Fact Sheet on the Administration’s support for communities impacted by Hurricane Helene is available [here](#). A Fact Sheet on the preparations made for Hurricane Milton is available [here](#).

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION EXCEEDS TUTOR, MENTOR RECRUITMENT GOAL

At a White House event on Thursday, Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, in coordination with the Department of Education (ED), AmeriCorps, and the Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University, [announced](#) that the National Partnership for Student Success (NPSS) has exceeded President Joe Biden’s call to recruit an additional 250,000 adults into high-impact

student roles by summer 2025 to support academic success for all students. These roles range from tutors, mentors, student success coaches, postsecondary transition coaches, and wraparound/integrated student support coordinators. As of the end of the 2023-2024 school year, an additional 320,000 adults have stepped into these roles in schools, exceeding the President's goal a year early. "We're proud that hundreds of thousands of Americans have answered President Biden's call – exceeding our goal and on a faster timeline. Now as a result, more than 320,000 new tutors, mentors, coaches, and support staff are directly making a positive impact in our communities and closing academic recovery gaps," said Tanden. Continuing the momentum, the NPSS announced additional efforts, including the establishment of a microgrant cycle to support youth-serving nonprofits, districts, state and local government, and intermediaries to bring more support to children and youth in their communities; the launch of a new tool that school districts can use to evaluate their tutoring programs for improvement with support from expert technical assistance; the release of a Student Success Coaching Playbook for school districts and youth-serving organizations looking to implement success coaching models; and the creation of a training resource library to support training of people in evidence-based student support roles.

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4. New Publications

Tutor CoPilot: A Human-AI Approach for Scaling Real-Time Expertise

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NSSA introduces Tutor CoPilot, a novel Human-AI approach that leverages a model of expert thinking to provide expert-like guidance to tutors as they tutor. This study presents the first randomized controlled trial of a Human-AI system in live tutoring, involving 900 tutors and 1,800 K-12 students from historically under-served communities.

Reducing Chronic Absenteeism: Lessons from Community Schools

Learning Policy Institute (August 2024)

This report examines how four California community schools—Buena Vista Horace Mann, Elk Hills Elementary, Helen Keller Elementary, and Lucille Roybal-Allard Elementary—significantly reduced their chronic absenteeism rates post-pandemic. Drawing on interviews with school leaders and personnel, it highlights proactive and interventionist attendance strategies that have enabled these schools to reduce chronic absenteeism. Insights from these efforts can guide educators and policymakers nationwide in addressing attendance challenges effectively.

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KQED / NPR / PBS (September 25, 2024)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Webinar: Statewide Strategies for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism

Subject: FutureEd will hold a webinar to explore Rhode Island's innovative cross-sector, data-driven approach to improve chronic absenteeism.

Participants: Daniel McKee, Rhode Island Governor; Angelica Infante-Green, Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Tom Giordano, executive director, Partnership Rhode Island.

Time: 1:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: A New Framework for Elementary Education

Subject: New America will hold a webinar on "Learning, Joy, and Equity: A New Framework for Elementary Education."

Participants: Cara Sklar, director, Early & Elementary Education Policy, New America; Keri Rodrigues, Co-Founder, founding president, National Parents Union; Tunette Powell, assistant research professor, director of parent and family partnerships, Children's Equity Project, Arizona State University; and others.

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Webinar: Youth in Teacher Apprenticeship Pathways: How to TAP into Youth in Education

Subject: New America will hold a webinar on youth in teacher apprenticeships and how this new model is shown to have an impact on the future of the educator workforce.

Time: 2:00 p.m ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Reexamining Online Education

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual discussion on "Is It Time for a Fresh Look at Online Education?"

Participants: Amy Johnson, executive director, Arkansas Virtual Academy; Ian Kingsbury, senior fellow, Educational Freedom Institute; Ben Scafidi, professor, Kennesaw State University; and Robert Pondiscio, senior fellow, American Enterprise Institute.

Time: 4:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Webinar: Building Stronger Teacher Pipelines Through University-District Partnerships

Subject: Fostering stronger teacher pipelines that result in better-prepared teachers who are more likely to remain in the teaching profession.

Participants: Tracy Huziak-Clark, director/professor, Bowling Green State University; Melody Hackney, superintendent, Hopewell City Schools, VA; Zeb Kellough, principal, Crim Elementary School, KY; Willis Walter, dean, College of Education, Virginia State University; and Valerie Sakimura, executive director, Deans for Impact.

Time: 3:00 p.m. ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, October 24, 2024

Webinar: AI Toolkit for Safe, Ethical, and Equitable AI Integration

Subject: The U.S. Department of Education will hold a webinar to highlight the newly released guide, The Educational Leaders' Artificial Intelligence Toolkit, including guidance for integrating AI safely, ethically, and effectively.

Time: 1:00 p.m ET

Registration: Register [here](#)

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Congress is in recess.

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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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