



# The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

**October 28, 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**

#### • **Ed Announces \$70M in School-Based Mental Health Services**

**Awards:** On October 17, the Department of Education **announced** a \$70 million investment to expand student access to school-based mental health services. This funding builds on previous efforts to address youth mental health through the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* (BSCA).

### • **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

#### • **New America Examines Teacher Pre-Apprenticeships in North**

**Carolina:** On October 17, New America hosted a webinar titled, “Youth in Teacher Apprenticeship Pathways: How to “TAP” into Youth in the Education Sector.” The panel examined several solutions to educator workforce shortages with a particular focus on teacher pre-apprenticeship programs in high schools.

#### • **K-12, Higher Ed School Leaders Discuss Strengthening Educator**

**Pipelines:** On October 22, The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading hosted a webinar on "Building Stronger Teacher Pipelines Through University-District Partnerships." Deans for Impact Executive Director Valerie Sakimura moderated a panel conversation that examined teacher

preparation partnerships between higher education institutions and local K-12 school districts.

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **Rhode Island Governor, State Officials Examine Chronic Absenteeism**: On October 15, FutureED's Liz Cohen moderated a webinar to discuss Rhode Island's innovative approach to improving chronic absenteeism.
- **New America Panel Looks at New Elementary Education Framework**: On October 15, New America held a webinar titled, "Learning, Joy, and Equity: A New Framework for Elementary Education." New America's Cara Sklar and Laura Bornfreund welcomed an impressive panel of education experts, including U.S. Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning Swati Adarkar.
- **ED Solicits Public Input on Civil Rights Data Collection for 2025-2027**: On October 16, The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced that they are seeking public input on the Civil Rights Data Collection for the 2025-26 and 2027-28 school years.
- **Secretary Cardona Announces Outstanding School Leadership Awards**: On October 16, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the recipients of the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership for 2024. The nine school leaders from the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored during an awards ceremony on November 7, 2024.
- **ED Approves \$4.5B in Student Debt Relief for Public Service Workers**: On October 17, the Department of Education announced the approval of \$4.5 billion in additional student loan relief for over 60,000 public service workers largely through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.
- **AEI Takes a Fresh Look at Online Education Delivery**: On October 17, The American Enterprise Institute hosted a webinar, "Is it time for a fresh look at online education?" The discussion focused on virtual schooling, the pandemic's impact on distance education, and its future in education systems.
- **CSIS Looks at Intersection of Civics and Tech in Society**: On October 22, The Center for Strategic and International Studies hosted a discussion on "Building Civics Concepts in STEM and the Tech Sector." Defending Democratic Institutions Project Director Suzanne Spaulding moderated a conversation with Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA).
- **ED Event Highlights AI Integration Toolkit for Education Leaders**: On October 24, the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology, in partnership with Digital Promise, hosted a webinar for education leaders on Artificial Intelligence integration in schools.

4. **New Publications**

- **K-12 Education: School Districts Reported Spending Initial COVID Relief Funds on Meeting Students' Needs and Continuing School Operations**

*US Government Accountability Office (September 2024)*

The Government Accountability Office was asked to review how school districts used their ESSER funds. Their report addresses (1) how the nation's school districts spent ESSER funds, (2) factors selected districts considered when prioritizing spending, and (3) how selected districts gauge the effects of their spending and how they are planning for the end of ESSER funding.

- **Less is More: The Casual Effect of Four-Day School Weeks on Employee Turnover**

*Annenberg Institute, Brown University (September 2024)*

The report examines the effect of four-day school week (4dsw) adoption in Oregon, a state with widespread 4dsw use, on teacher and other school staff retention by leveraging a staggered roll-out of the schedule using a difference-in-differences design.

## 5. **In the News**

- **AI School Bus Cameras Aim to Protect Kids, Report Dangerous Drivers**

*NBC's Today (October 22, 2024)*

- **COVID Money Boosted Chicago's Schools. Now It's Gone, and the City is in Crisis**

*The Washington Post (October 22, 2024)*

- **Top 5 Ways Education Would Look Different Under Harris vs. Trump**

*The Hill (October 20, 2024)*

- **Special Ed is Consuming a Growing Share of Public School Dollars. Is It Helping?**

*Edunomics Lab (October 18, 2024)*

- **Why Trump and Harris Have Barely Talked About Schools This Election**

*Education Week (October 17, 2024)*

- **US Department of Education Launches \$1 Million CTE CHIPS Challenge**

*Homeroom | US Department of Education (October 17, 2024)*

- **Chair Foxx, Subcommittee Chair Bean Question Dept. of Ed's Push to Tie CTE Programs in Red Tape**

*Committee on Education and the Workforce (October 16, 2024)*

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

- **Leveraging Technology to Equip K-12 Students for Success:** The Center for American Progress will hold a discussion on "Leveraging Technology to Equip K-12 Students for Success."

*Tuesday at 11am ET*

- **Elevating STEM Education in Rural Communities:** The U.S. Department of Education and National Science Foundation will hold a webinar to examine how rural schools approach STEM Education.

*Tuesday at 12pm ET*

- **Common Ground in Education:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "Is There Common Ground in Education Today?"

*Wednesday at 4:30pm ET*

7. **Future Hearings & Events**
  - **What Will Elections Mean for Education**: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "What Will the 2024 Elections Mean for Education?"  
*November 6 at 10am ET*
  - **Reimagining K-12 Student Advising Systems**: The U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences will hold a webinar on designing and implementing effective advising systems that enhance career pathways for all students.  
*November 7 at 4pm ET*
8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
  - The House and Senate are in recess.
9. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**
10. **About BPAG**

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## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### FUNDING

#### ED ANNOUNCES \$70M IN SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AWARDS

On October 17, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** a \$70 million investment to expand student access to school-based mental health services. This funding builds on previous efforts to address youth mental health through the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* (BSCA). The awards will help reach more students through education, prevention, and early intervention and hopefully double the number of school-based mental health professionals in schools. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona emphasized the importance of providing mental health support in schools, as educators are on the front lines when students are struggling. The additional funding will allow more institutions and schools to train and hire mental health professionals, especially in underserved communities, Secretary Cardona explained in a [press release](#). The new investment signals the largest expansion of K-12 mental health programs through BSCA and will support 333 grantees across 48 states and add 18,000 school-based mental health professionals to the workforce. These funds will be used to enhance pre-service preparation, alleviate cost barriers, expand professional development opportunities, recruit professionals from diverse backgrounds, and provide stipends for interns in high-need schools. Moving forward, ED says that it plans to make pathways into mental health professions more accessible, increase the number and diversity of school-based professionals, expand full-service community schools, enhance partnerships with community organizations for mental health support and violence intervention, and reduce the stigma around seeking help. The full list of grant awardees is [here](#).

### TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

#### NEW AMERICA EXAMINES TEACHER PRE-APPRENTICESHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA

On October 17, New America hosted a webinar titled, "[Youth in Teacher Apprenticeship Pathways: How to 'TAP' into Youth in the Education Sector](#)." The webinar addressed teacher workforce shortages in public schools across the country, citing a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) study finding that 86 percent of K-12 public schools in the United States

experienced challenges in hiring teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. Acknowledging these findings, the panel examined several solutions with a particular focus on teacher pre-apprenticeship programs in high schools. The panel presented K-12 teacher apprenticeship programs as a promising solution to closing educator workforce gaps. Rachel Hiatt, the coordinator for work-based learning and apprenticeship initiatives at Surry Community College (SCC) in North Carolina touted SCC's teacher pre-apprenticeship program, the first community-based internship program of its kind in North Carolina. Valerie Williams with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction underscored the numerous benefits offered by teacher pre-apprenticeship programs in high school, while also citing existing challenges to expanding them. Williams explained that many teacher pre-apprentices are unable to earn college credit while participating in these programs, which can discourage program growth. To alleviate this challenge, high schools are increasing their direct engagement with local colleges and universities to provide college credit for apprenticeship experience. There is hope that these partnerships will further encourage students to participate in teacher pre-apprenticeship programs, ultimately scaling them across local, state, and national levels. The panel agreed that teacher apprenticeship programs provide students with real-world experiences, a vital feature in developing the future educator workforce.

### **K-12, HIGHER ED LEADERS DISCUSS STRENGTHENING EDUCATOR PIPELINES**

On October 22, The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) hosted a webinar on "Building Stronger Teacher Pipelines Through University-District Partnerships." Deans for Impact (DFI) Executive Director Valerie Sakimura moderated a panel conversation that examined teacher preparation partnerships between higher education institutions and local K-12 school districts. The panel featured Bowling Green State University Professor Dr. Tracy Huziak-Clark; Hopewell City Schools (VA) Superintendent Melody Hackney; Crim Elementary School (KY) Principal Zeb Kellough; and Virginia State University College of Education Dean Willis Walter. Sakimura shared that DFI works with educator preparation program leaders, teachers, policymakers, and advocates to provide equitable instructional improvement. Principal Kellough and Dr. Clark discussed the tutoring partnership between Bowling Green State University and Crim Elementary School, which was established to provide additional support to students while giving potential teachers hands-on experience in the classroom. Program results so far have shown encouraging improvement in student learning outcomes. The partnership also provides tutors with experience in the practical application of teaching methods in small group settings and has been so successful that the university is expanding the program to each elementary school in the district. Dr. Walter and Superintendent Hackney followed, elaborating on the partnership between Virginia State University and Hopewell City Schools, which helps improve principal preparation programs to meet local school district needs. The partnerships highlighted during the event underscored the benefits that arise from collaboration between universities and local schools.

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## **2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up**

The country is full of anticipation as Election Day nears. The day's results will dictate which party controls the House and Senate, as well as who will be the new resident of the White House. The results will also affect the productivity of Congress during its November Lame Duck session and how Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 spending bills are ultimately resolved. Advocates and politicians are

spending much of October discussing potential scenarios for the rest of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. They are also starting to think about the next Administration and the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Organizations representing varied causes and constituents are drafting transition memoranda for the next Administration. This means conveying policy wish lists for the next four years, as well as introductions (or re-introductions) to the author and its priorities. Some groups, like EdTrust, are sharing those memos already—before they even know who to send them to.

Election Day results will begin a lot of work in Washington, DC. Until then, we wait.

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

As for planning for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, education advocates have known for quite some time that there will be some changes important to their work. Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), who has been the top Republican on the Education and the Workforce Committee for quite some time, will have to give up that position at the end of the year. She won a waiver from then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to keep leading the panel this Congress. So far, two of her colleagues have declared interest in the job. Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI) unsuccessfully challenged Foxx for the position at the start of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. Now his competition is Representative Burgess Owens (R-UT), who has been an active member of the Committee and helms the postsecondary education and workforce subcommittee. Walberg talked to Politico about why he wants the job recently. The panel's top Democrat—Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) will continue to lead his side of the aisle but will have a new partner in addressing education and workforce policy next year.

As for the Senate, there isn't any expected change in leadership of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, although Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) might chair the panel come next year. But Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) could still be leading the Committee, which has focused more on health care policy this Congress than education legislation. Next year will be the 10-year anniversary of the enactment of *Every Student Succeeds Act*, and there are advocates who would like to begin a discussion of updating the law.

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

#### **RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR, STATE OFFICIALS EXAMINE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

On October 15, FutureED's Liz Cohen moderated a webinar to discuss Rhode Island's innovative approach to improving chronic absenteeism. The participants included Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee; Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angelica Infante-Green; Newport, RI Mayor Xay Khamyvoravong; and Partnership Rhode Island Executive Director Tom Giordano. Cohen began the discussion by highlighting how chronic absenteeism presents one of the most significant challenges in K-12 education since the pandemic. She stressed that chronic absenteeism decreases graduation rates and lowers student achievement. Following her introduction, Governor McKee spoke about Rhode Island's cross-sector, data-driven approach to improving chronic absenteeism, specifically the Learn 365 initiative. Under the leadership of Governor McKee, the Rhode Island Department of Education has established a statewide coalition of mayors, business leaders, hospitals, and other stakeholders beyond the state's education ecosystem to get students back to school—a strategy that is yielding impressive early results, according to the Governor. 89 percent of the state's 64 school districts lowered their chronic

absenteeism rates in 2023-24 from the previous year, he said. He added that he is focused on sharing daily real-time data through the student [attendance leaderboard](#), the only dashboard used to track student attendance nationwide. Following the Governor's remarks, Commissioner Infante-Green spoke about her experience leading Rhode Island's Department of Education during and post-pandemic. She praised Governor McKee for his commitment to addressing chronic absenteeism and setting student assessments and attendance targets. The Commissioner emphasized how the Governor's response to solving the issue of chronic absenteeism has been a [statewide](#) approach and is a part of the [Governor's 2030 plan](#). Rhode Island is also placing emphasis on parent engagement to reduce chronic absenteeism further, the Commissioner said. Mayor Khamsyvoravong underscored the impact of the Governor's efforts in the Newport community, saying the data collected is providing school districts with a better understanding of which students are struggling in class. Lastly, Giordano spoke about rallying the business community and municipal leaders to address chronic absenteeism. Reducing chronic absenteeism is an investment in the workforce, he explained, and [Rhode Island's hands-on approach to combating chronic absenteeism](#) is an example that other states would benefit from adopting.

### **NEW AMERICA PANEL LOOKS AT NEW ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FRAMEWORK**

On October 15, New America held a webinar titled, "Learning, Joy, and Equity: A New Framework for Elementary Education." New America's Cara Sklar and Laura Bornfreund welcomed an impressive panel of education experts, including U.S. Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning Swati Adarkar. Sklar's opening remarks outlined New America's [new framework](#) for elementary education, which builds on foundational efforts centered on children's learning, yet disrupts historically rooted and contemporarily entrenched biases in learning systems. Deputy Assistant Secretary Adarkar remarked on Arizona State University's [Children's Equity Project](#) (CEP), a program created to address the needs of students from marginalized communities. Adarkar stated that New America's framework expands upon strategies to improve early school success, and CEP Founding Director Dr. Shantel Meek added that improving equity should be at the center of these efforts. She cited several historical challenges around funding, segregation, facility maintenance, classroom enrichment, discipline, language barriers, inclusion, and educator diversity. CEP's Dr. Tunette Powell provided an overview of the 14 core characteristics outlined in New America's framework, starting with transformative leadership, vision and philosophy, and attention to marginalized communities. These characteristics are guided by data, lessons learned, parent and family engagement, and a desire to design child-centered, joyful, and practical spaces for learning, Powell explained. A broader panel discussion on education policy followed, which included several school district leaders and public-school teachers. The group remarked on parent engagement and outside stakeholder investment to improve student outcomes and emphasized a child-centered vision for education focused on integrity, equality, and joy.

### **ED SOLICITS PUBLIC INPUT ON CIVIL RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION FOR 2025-2027**

On October 16, The Department of Education's (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) [announced](#) that they are seeking public input on the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2025-26 and 2027-28 school years. The CRDC has collected civil rights data since 1968, focusing on student access to educational opportunities and resources, including school climate factors. The OCR's new Information Collection Request includes collecting data on informal student removals, students placed in private schools, and threat assessment teams in schools. Assistant Secretary for

Civil Rights Catherine Lhamon emphasized the importance of the CRDC, saying, "The Civil Rights Data Collection provides crucial information for evaluating students' experiences in America's public schools. We look forward to receiving and reviewing public comments on the proposed data elements and to working with schools and districts to collect these essential data." Interested parties can review the proposed data elements for the 2025-26 and 2027-28 school years [here](#). Frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

### **SECRETARY CARDONA ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

On October 16, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona [announced](#) the recipients of the [Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership](#) for 2024. The nine school leaders from the 2024 cohort of [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) will be honored during an awards ceremony on November 7, 2024. Cardona highlighted the importance of school leaders in raising the bar for education, saying that the award recipients "have driven change, shaped school cultures, and fought for excellence in education." He continued, "The Bell Award recognizes [the recipients'] relentless dedication and celebrates [their] impact on your school and your students." The award, named after the second US Secretary of Education, Terrel H. Bell, recognizes leaders who are committed to excellence and driving positive change in their schools. Principals are nominated by their school communities during the final stages of the National Blue Ribbon Schools application process. The nine recipients are listed [here](#).

### **ED APPROVES \$4.5B IN STUDENT DEBT RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS**

On October 17, the Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) the approval of \$4.5 billion in additional student loan relief for over 60,000 public service workers largely through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Prior to President Joe Biden taking office, the PSLF program had only provided 7,000 public servants with debt relief. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona underscored improvements made by the Biden-Harris Administration to the PSLF program and the significant number of public servants who have received significant loan forgiveness as a result. ED also introduced additional steps to encourage more public servants to take advantage of the program, including efforts by public sector unions such as the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association to promote PSLF enrollment, and the facilitation of the application process. In addition to the PSLF relief, the Biden-Harris Administration has approved \$56.5 billion for over 1.4 million borrowers through Income-Driven Repayment plans, \$28.7 billion for borrowers for schools that have closed, and \$16.2 billion for borrowers with total and permanent disabilities. Along with this announcement, ED released data showing the breakdown of borrowers approved for PSLF in every state, reflecting the additional discharges announced.

### **AEI TAKES A FRESH LOOK AT ONLINE EDUCATION DELIVERY**

On October 17, The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted a webinar, "[Is it time for a fresh look at online education?](#)" The panel was moderated by AEI Senior Fellow Robert Pondiscio and featured participation from Arkansas Virtual Academy Executive Director Amy Johnson; Education Freedom Institute Senior Fellow Ian Kingsbury; and Kennesaw State University Professor Ben Scafidi. The discussion focused on virtual schooling, the pandemic's impact on distance education, and its future in education systems. Kingsbury provided an explanation on virtual schools, which are entities approved by a state or governing body that offers courses through distance delivery. Virtual schooling, like other educational opportunities, can present



several challenges – such as lower student achievement, issues with cheating on tests or exams, and lack of proper accountability structures. However, Kingsbury and his colleagues on the panel stressed that virtual schooling is an impactful option for many students that struggle with geographical distance, bullying, behavioral issues, and social learning. The panel also clarified that virtual schools usually are not long-term solutions – often, the student receives only one or two years of online education before returning to the classroom. Amy Johnson added that improvements to online education accountability structures is necessary, and virtual school accountability structures should place a greater emphasis on social-emotional needs alongside state assessment standards. In sum, the panel agreed that structural flaws in online education exist, yet the benefits presented by distance learning cannot be discounted in many circumstances.

### **CSIS LOOKS AT INTERSECTION OF CIVICS AND TECH IN SOCIETY**

On October 22, The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a discussion on "Building Civics Concepts in STEM and the Tech Sector." Defending Democratic Institutions Project Director Suzanne Spaulding moderated a conversation with Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA). Spaulding and Senator Warner examined the critical role civics education plays in combatting disinformation. Spaulding remarked on reducing vulnerabilities in technology and outlined themes in CSIS's upcoming report on building civics concepts in STEM and tech sectors. Spaulding expressed caution around foreign interference via information operations, and the opportunity to undermine the public's trust in electoral and governance systems and sew division within the United States. She then explained that these concerning efforts can be countered by building societal resilience through civics education. Senator Warner echoed Spaulding's concerns. He asserted that civics education can improve an individual's understanding of democratic systems and respect for their civic duties. Warner called for a strengthened national security system that focuses on competitive technology domains and highlighted [TechCongress](#), a fellowship program that places computer scientists, engineers, and other technologists as technology policy advisors to Members of Congress. Warner stated that the program has helped Members of Congress understand how tech and policy interact. Several civics and tech experts participated in a panel discussion following Senator Warner's remarks. The panel examined how the strengthening of civic knowledge, skills, and engagement can foster a more cohesive community and workforce. The panelists collectively stressed the need for bipartisan solutions and highlighted the intersection of civics and tech in national security, law, governance, policymaking, and information gathering.

### **ED EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AI INTEGRATION TOOLKIT FOR EDUCATION LEADERS**

On October 24, the Department of Education's (ED) Office of Educational Technology (OET), in partnership with Digital Promise, hosted a webinar for education leaders on Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in schools. The event featured remarks from the ED's Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten; Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development Roberto Rodriguez; Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development Chief of Staff Anil Hurkadli; and Digital Promise Senior Director of Edtech and Emerging Technologies Pati Ruiz. The panel highlighted a new education-focused OET [AI guide](#) for developers. The guide, entitled, "Designing for Education with artificial Intelligence," provides recommendations and includes a set of discussion questions that leaders in organizations can use to foster conversation, next steps to promote robust development processes, and resources that can provide additional support. Two important considerations when dealing with AI, Deputy Secretary Martin said, are "trust and

safety." She noted that while AI can accelerate student learning, there are barriers to securely implementing AI in schools, which ED's new guide is designed to assist with through engaging stakeholders, developing accountability systems, and promoting secure use of AI tools. The audience also heard remarks from three school superintendents that shared their experiences implementing much of the guidance included in ED's toolkit. They advocated for community stakeholder engagement, particularly with local employers to understand their AI literacy needs to inform school curriculum. While panel members each expressed concerns around AI security risks and accountability structures, they voiced the importance of AI literacy, saying that the skillset is an invaluable building block for future workforces. ED's Essential Guide for Developers can be found [here](#).

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

##### **K-12 Education: School Districts Reported Spending Initial COVID Relief Funds on Meeting Students' Needs and Continuing School Operations**

*US Government Accountability Office (September 2024)*

The Government Accountability Office was asked to review how school districts used their Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Their report addresses (1) how the nation's school districts spent ESSER funds, (2) factors selected districts considered when prioritizing spending, and (3) how selected districts gauge the effects of their spending and how they are planning for the end of ESSER funding.

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*Annenberg Institute, Brown University (September 2024)*

The report examines the effect of four-day school week (4dsw) adoption in Oregon, a state with widespread 4dsw use, on teacher and other school staff retention by leveraging a staggered roll-out of the schedule using a difference-in-differences design.

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

##### **AI School Bus Cameras Aim to Protect Kids, Report Dangerous Drivers**

*NBC's Today (October 22, 2024)*

##### **Covid Money Boosted Chicago's Schools. Now It's Gone, and the City is in Crisis**

*The Washington Post (October 22, 2024)*

##### **Top 5 Ways Education Would Look Different Under Harris vs. Trump**

*The Hill (October 20, 2022)*

##### **Special Ed is Consuming a Growing Share of Public School Dollars. Is It Helping?**

*Ednomics Lab (October 18, 2024)*

##### **Why Trump and Harris Have Barely Talked About Schools This Election**

*Education Week (October 17, 2024)*

##### **US Department of Education Launches \$1 Million CTE CHIPS Challenge**

*Homeroom | US Department of Education (October 17, 2023)*

## Chair Foxx, Subcommittee Chair Bean Question Dept. of Ed's Push to Tie CTE Programs in Red Tape

*Committee on Education and the Workforce* (October 16, 2024)

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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### 6. Weekly Calendar

#### **Tuesday, October 29, 2024**

##### **Webinar: Leveraging Technology to Equip K-12 Students for Success**

**Subject:** The Center for American Progress will hold a discussion on “Leveraging Technology To Equip K-12 Students for Success.”

**Participants:** Kevin Johnstun, management and program analyst and AI team co-lead, Education Department's Office of Educational Technology; Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO, National Center for Learning Disabilities; and Punya Mishra, professor, Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. ET

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

##### **Webinar: Elevating STEM Education in Rural Communities**

**Subject:** The U.S. Department of Education and National Science Foundation will hold a webinar to examine how rural schools approach STEM Education.

**Participants:** James Moore, assistant director, STEM Education Directorate, National Science Foundation; Travis Park, board chair, FFA Organization; Karen Borders, executive director, STEM Instruction and Outreach, West Sound Network; and Luke Rhine acting assistant secretary, Office of Career and Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. ET

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

#### **Wednesday, October 30, 2024**

##### **Webinar: Common Ground in Education**

**Subject:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on “Is There Common Ground in Education Today?”

**Participants:** Frederick Hess, AEI; and Jorge Elorza, Democrats for Education Reform.

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. ET

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

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### 7. Future Hearings and Events

#### **Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

##### **Webinar: What Will Elections Mean for Education**

**Subject:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on “What Will the 2024 Elections Mean for Education?”

**Participants:** Heather Harding, executive director, Our Shared Future; Derrell Bradford, president, 50CAN; Frederick Hess, AEI; Preston Cooper, AEI; Nat Malkus, AEI; and Virginia Gentles, director, Defense of Freedom Institute's Education Freedom and Parental Rights Initiative.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. ET

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

## Thursday, November 7, 2024

### Webinar: Reimagining K-12 Student Advising Systems

**Subject:** The U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences will hold a webinar on designing and implementing effective advising systems that enhance career pathways for all students.

**Participants:** Scott Solberg, professor, Boston University; Brandi Fennell, program manager, Effective Advising Framework, Texas Education Agency; Erin Jaques, assistant director of college and career advising, Boston Public Schools; and others.

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. ET

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

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## 8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

The House and Senate are 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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