



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

NOVEMBER 18, 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. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**

2. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **New America Addresses Youth Homelessness Through Civic Assembly:** On Wednesday, New America hosted a virtual discussion titled, "Lessons from Deschutes, Oregon Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness."
 - **Education Stakeholders Examine Future of Standardized Testing:** On Wednesday, FutureEd hosted a webinar on the future of standardized testing. A panel of education stakeholders analyzed certain challenges that standardized testing presents.
 - **ED Looks at STEM Education Innovations Beyond Technology:** On Wednesday, the Department of Education (ED) hosted a panel discussion on innovative approaches to STEM education that extend beyond technology.

3. **New Publications**
 - **Most US Public Schools Offer After-School Programs but Many Cannot Accommodate All Students Who Want to Participate**
National Center for Education Statistics (November 14, 2024)
NCES's School Pulse Panel surveys public K-12 schools in the U.S. on high-priority, education-related topics.

4. **In the News**
 - **What a Second Trump Presidency Could Mean for Education in the US**

- The74 (November 7, 2024)*
- **School Board Results Show Wins on Conservative and Progressive Sides**
EdSource (November 8, 2024)
 - **Demand for \$200 FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Far Exceeds Capacity**
K-12 Dive (November 11, 2024)
 - **8th Graders' Average Scores Decline on Computer and Information Literacy Exam**
K-12 Dive (November 12, 2024)
 - **Who Could Lead the Department Trump Plans to Abolish?**
Inside Higher Ed (November 13, 2024)
 - **Judge Blocks Louisiana Law Mandating Ten Commandments in Public Classrooms**
Inside Higher Ed (November 13, 2024)
 - **Trump Wants to Close The Education Department. It's Far Easier Said Than Done.**
USA Today (November 13, 2024)
 - **The Impact on K-12 STEM Policy**
Homeroom | US Department of Education (November 13, 2024)

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

- **Fundamentals of Youth Apprenticeship:** New America will hold a webinar on the "Fundamentals of Youth Apprenticeship."
Monday at 12pm ET
- **Role of Philanthropy in High-Impact Tutoring:** The Campaign for Grade Level Reading will hold a webinar to examine how philanthropic organizations are investing directly in high-impact tutoring programs and innovative models that can lower per-student costs while maintaining student learning; supporting research and evaluation of existing models to make the case for increased public investment; encouraging strategies that engage retirees and college students to meet the high demand for effective tutors; and promoting the usage of technology to allocate tutoring resources and reach populations across diverse regions; and more.
Tuesday at 12:30pm ET
- **Joint Economic Committee on 2025 Tax Policy Debate:** The Joint Economic Committee will hold a hearing on the 2025 tax policy debate, focusing on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
Tuesday at 2:30pm ET
- **Early Entrepreneurship Education Shaping the Future:** The National Academies Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy Research Roundtable (GUIPRR) will host a webinar to explore the transformative role of early entrepreneurship education.
Tuesday at 3:30pm ET
- **What's Next for Education Following the Election:** Bellwether Education will hold a webinar to examine the results of the 2024 election and what it means for education policy.
Tuesday at 4pm ET

6. Future Hearings & Events

- **AI in Classrooms, Funding, and the Future of Education**: The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on artificial intelligence in classrooms, the past year's educational investments, and funding opportunities education leaders can look forward to in 2025.

December 5 at 2pm ET

7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

- **Senate floor**: Consideration of nominations
- **House floor**:
 - **H.R. 1449** – CLEAN Act (Sponsored by Rep. Fulcher / Natural Resources Committee)
 - **H.R. 9495** – Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act (Sponsored by Rep. Tenney / Ways and Means Committee)

8. Important U.S. House and Senate Links

9. About BPAG

1. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up**

Congress returned to Washington, DC last week, and Republicans are eager to end the 118th Congress and start the 119th. Of course, there is unfinished business between them and their opportunity to control the White House and both chambers of Congress for the next two years. Namely, the FY 2025 spending process. The temporary spending measure funding the federal government expires on December 20th. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) has warned that there won't be a Christmas omnibus bill, **suggesting** that FY 2025 spending will be addressed by another continuing resolution (CR) through March, if House Republicans have their way. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is still hoping to force action on FY 2025 spending bills by year's end, recognizing that Democrats will be defending discretionary cuts for the next two years. There will be much positioning in the coming weeks on the matter.

During the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, the White House and GOP leadership on Capitol Hill will want to reauthorize the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act via the **reconciliation** process. That effort could include a school choice issue—most likely a substantial tax-credit program, similar to the **Educational Choice for Children Act**. Advocates for every issue will be eyeing the tax bill as a vehicle for many other causes as it will only require 50 Senate votes to pass (a 50-50 tie vote would be broken by the Vice President). Everyone in town is brushing up on reconciliation and its many rules as 2025 approaches.

November and December will be busy all over Washington, DC, as advocates take stock of what is possible during the lame duck while preparing for a new Administration and Congress. The days are shorter, but the hours are longer.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

On FY 2025 spending issues, education advocates continue to press for adequate investments in the programs that support schools, teachers, and students. As for next year, a question being

repeatedly asked and answered pertains to the existence of the Department of Education (ED). Candidate Trump talked repeatedly about his desire to eliminate the agency, as he did in 2016; it's a desire Republicans have voiced since President Jimmy Carter created the agency to fulfill a campaign promise in 1979. The agency's demise is unlikely. Eliminating the ED would be complicated and require Congressional cooperation that would not be found in the Senate. Further, given the Administration's urgency around a number of other higher profile promises and awareness that it only has four years to reach its many goals, investing the political capital required to dismantle the agency would seem misplaced. There could be efforts to change the agency in other ways. For example, the White House might choose to leave a number of political appointments vacant. Also, a requirement for employees to return to the office five days a week would surely lead to attrition that would necessarily be remedied. [The Musk-Ramaswamy DOGE effort](#) will surely include Education Department recommendations, but it remains to be seen how and whether any suggestions might be implemented absent Congressional action. The Department will most likely survive, but it could change. Proposals to move the federal student loan programs to the Treasury Department and various education programs to either the Health and Human Services Department or the Labor Department could get serious consideration or be proposed by the White House, but implementation would be complicated. Stay tuned.

[Back to top.](#)

2. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

NEW AMERICA ADDRESSES YOUTH HOMELESSNESS THROUGH CIVIC ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday, New America hosted a virtual discussion titled, "Lessons from Deschutes, Oregon Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness." The conversation, moderated by New America Senior Fellow Hollie Russon Gilman, featured a diverse panel of experts: Claudia Chwalisz, founder and CEO of DemocracyNext; Josh Burgess, executive director of the Central Oregon Civic Action Project; Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou, the head of translational research at MIT; and Tammy Baney, executive director of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council. As moderator, Gilman framed the conversation around humility, a hunger for change, listening, and local communities. Chwalisz highlighted the power of civic assemblies in reinvigorating democracy at the local level. She emphasized how these assemblies can strengthen civic agency through broader community engagement and shared DemocracyNext's [assembly guide](#). Josh Burgess discussed why central Oregon was the focal point for creating this civic assembly and how they went about the process. Burgess believes that central Oregon reflects the diversity across the country, as the region is home to one of the fastest-growing small cities, along with significant inequities and socio-economic challenges. The goal of the civic assembly on youth homelessness was to bring together people from all three counties, bridging the rural-urban divide, promoting more effective governance, and rebuilding trust within the community. Tammy Baney discussed how initiatives like the civic assembly help break down barriers to local engagement and give space for community discussion and exploration of ideas. She shared that many participants, initially skeptical, were moved by the experience, noting how the assembly brought to light the diverse perspectives of those affected by youth homelessness. Baney observed how throughout the five days of the assembly, trust was built between members throughout the process. Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou talked about her work on building tech-enhanced versions of civic assemblies and how it aligns with DemocracyNext's efforts to improve the civic assembly process. She emphasized technology's unique role in civic assemblies, from providing real-time insight and moderating discussions to using AI tools that can

identify points of consensus and voices missing from the conversation. The recordings from the civic assembly are available on the [Central Oregon Civic Project page](#).

EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS EXAMINE FUTURE OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

On Wednesday, FutureEd hosted a webinar on the future of standardized testing. A panel of education stakeholders analyzed certain challenges that standardized testing presents. Statewide standardized testing has long been a cornerstone of public education, providing valuable insights into school performance and driving improvement. However, federally mandated testing has become increasingly divisive, complicating new initiatives, and stalling a national conversation on raising academic standards. The panel examined improvements to school assessment systems that will work better for students while also providing parents and teachers with the necessary and relevant student learning outcomes. However, each state has a different approach to standardized testing, and Education First's Jenn Vranek discussed how states like Montana are moving toward a series of student assessments throughout the year, as opposed to a single year-end assessment. Andrew Ho, professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, asserted that designing a perfect assessment system is impossible, and doing so can be administratively burdensome. Educators seek tests that are valid, reliable, and cost-effective—but Ho argues that with standardized testing, you can only achieve two of these qualities at one time. You can have an assessment that is both valid and reliable, but it will come at an excessive cost. Alternatively, you can save money, but the test may lack reliability and fail to assess students accurately. As a result, states and school districts are often locked in a constant tug-of-war over standardized testing, Ho explained. The discussion then shifted to matrix sampling, a method that assesses students across a wide range of subjects. The panelists emphasized that a standardized test should provide scores in all subjects to fully address the learning needs of every student. While funding remains the biggest obstacle to creating a comprehensive, well-rounded test, a perfect solution for accurately assessing students has yet to be found.

ED LOOKS AT STEM EDUCATION INNOVATIONS BEYOND TECHNOLOGY

On Wednesday, the Department of Education (ED) hosted a panel discussion on innovative approaches to STEM education that extend beyond technology. The event featured representatives from [Pets in the Classroom](#), the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and the South Central Washington STEM Network, who shared creative strategies to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders. Jorge Valdes and Reggie Duncan from the USPTO highlighted the value of hands-on learning experiences in schools, noting the positive feedback they have received from engaging students in federal STEM challenges early in their education. Duncan emphasized the importance of representation, stating that "students are less likely to be what they cannot see." To address this, the USPTO developed a video series to bring invention and innovation directly to students, even from a distance. The South Central STEM Network's Hugo Moreno and Hannah Singco discussed efforts to expand access to STEM education in rural areas and connecting students to industry role models through online platforms. Throughout the discussion, all participants focused on overcoming barriers to access—such as limited internet connectivity and geographical isolation—by providing students with opportunities to engage in STEM learning on their own time. This push for greater access to online STEM resources ensures that all students, regardless of location, can feel included in the field of STEM.

[Back to top.](#)

3. New Publications

Most U.S. Public Schools Offer After-School Programs but Many Cannot Accommodate All Students who want to Participate

National Center for Education Statistics (November 14, 2024)

NCES's School Pulse Panel surveys public K-12 schools in the U.S. on high-priority, education-related topics.

[*Back to top.*](#)

4. In the News

What a Second Trump Presidency Could Mean for Education in the US

The74 (November 7, 2024)

School Board Results Show Wins on Conservative and Progressive Sides

EdSource (November 8, 2024)

Demand for \$200 FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Far Exceeds Capacity

K-12 Dive (November 11, 2024)

8th Graders' Average Scores Decline on Computer and Information Literacy Exam

K-12 Dive (November 12, 2024)

Who Could Lead the Department Trump Plans to Abolish?

Inside Higher Ed (November 13, 2024)

Judge Blocks Louisiana Law Mandating Ten Commandments in Public Classrooms

Inside Higher Ed (November 13, 2024)

Trump Wants to Close The Education Department. It's Far Easier Said Than Done.

USA Today (November 13, 2024)

The Impact on K-12 STEM Policy

Homeroom | US Department of Education (November 13, 2024)

[*Back to top.*](#)

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

5. Weekly Calendar

Monday, November 18, 2024

Webinar: Fundamentals of Youth Apprenticeship

Subject: New America will hold a webinar on the "Fundamentals of Youth Apprenticeship."

Participants: Taylor White, director of postsecondary pathways for youth, Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship; Lancy Downs, senior policy analyst, Center on Education and Labor; and Ivy Sullivan, manager, Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship.

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Webinar: Role of Philanthropy in High-Impact Tutoring

Subject: The Campaign for Grade Level Reading will hold a webinar to examine how philanthropic organizations are investing directly in high-impact tutoring programs and innovative models that can lower per-student costs while maintaining student learning; supporting research and evaluation of existing models to make the case for increased public investment; encouraging strategies that engage retirees and college students to meet the high demand for effective tutors; and promoting the usage of technology to allocate tutoring resources and reach populations across diverse regions; and more.

Participants: Pete Lavorini, portfolio manager, Overdeck Family Foundation; Narric Rome, managing director of state and federal policy, Accelerate; and Mioshi Moses, vice president, Experience Corps at AARP Foundation.

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Hearing: Joint Economic Committee on 2025 Tax Policy Debate

Subject: The Joint Economic Committee will hold a hearing on the 2025 tax policy debate, focusing on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Witnesses: Kevin Brady, former chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president, American Action Forum; Samantha Jacoby, deputy director of federal tax policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; and John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO, Small Business Majority.

Time: 2:30 p.m.

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

Webinar: Early Entrepreneurship Education Shaping the Future

Subject: The National Academies Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy Research Roundtable (GUIPRR) will host a webinar to explore the transformative role of early entrepreneurship education.

Participants: Nick Briere, executive director, Connecticut Invention Convention; Doron Feller, associate director of community partnerships, Connecticut Invention Convention; and Jorge Valdes, program advisor on STEM education and intellectual property, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Webinar: What's Next for Education Following the Election

Subject: Bellwether Education will hold a webinar to examine the results of the 2024 election and what it means for education policy.

Participants: Andy Rotherham, founder, Bellwether Education; Kevin Huffman, CEO, Accelerate; Lindsay Fryer, president, Lodestone DC; and Lakisha Young, founder and CEO, Oakland REACH.

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

[Back to top.](#)

6. Future Hearings and Events

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Webinar: AI in Classrooms, Funding, and the Future of Education

Subject: The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on artificial intelligence in classrooms, the past year's educational investments, and funding opportunities education leaders can look forward to in 2025.

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

[Back to top.](#)

7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor:

Consideration of nominations.

House Floor:

H.R. 1449 – CLEAN Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Fulcher / Natural Resources Committee*)

H.R. 9495 – Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Tenney / Ways and Means Committee*)

[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.