



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

January 21, 2025

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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**
 - **Broadband and Connectivity**
 - **COSSBA Joins Amicus Brief in Support of Universal Service Fund:** COSSBA signed onto an “Amicus Brief” submitted on behalf of 21 education stakeholders arguing that the Fifth Circuit’s unprecedented decision invalidating the universal service fee would jeopardize Congress’s longstanding mission to provide telecommunications services to all Americans.
 - **Child Nutrition**
 - **Summer Food Service Program, 2025 Reimbursement Rates:** The notice informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Biden Honors 336 Educators with Top Science, Math Awards:** On Monday, President Biden honored 336 educators and mentors with the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.
 - **New Institute for a STEM Ready America Names Inaugural Director:** The STEM Next Opportunity Fund announced on Monday that it has appointed

Camsie McAdams as the inaugural Director of the Institute for a STEM Ready America.

- **AEI Explores Legal Boundaries of Parental Rights:** On Monday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Wheatley Institute hosted a number of panel discussions during an event entitled, “What Are Parents’ Rights, and How Far Do They Go?”
- **House Passes Bill Banning Transgender Athletes in Women Sports:** Last Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act (H.R. 28), a bill that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in women's school sports.
- **Ways & Means Debates TCJA Permanency, Future of Child Tax Credit:** On Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on making the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) permanent, which included robust discussions on the Child Tax Credit
- **US Education Department Unveils Inaugural Open Data Plan:** Last Tuesday, the Department of Education launched its inaugural Open Data Plan, aiming to enhance transparency, accessibility, and collaboration in education.
- **Brookings Addresses Student Disengagement, Fostering Readiness:** Last Tuesday, *Brookings* held a webinar titled, “‘The Disengaged Teen’: How to Help Children Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better.”
- **Education and Workforce Committee Sets Priorities for 119th Congress:** On Wednesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce convened its organizing meeting for the 119th Congress, setting its priorities and leadership structure.
- **Sens. Criticize FBI Overreach, Advocate for Parent Rights in Education:** On Wednesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the nomination of the Pam Bondi to be Attorney General of the United States. During Wednesday’s hearing, multiple Republican senators criticized what they described as governmental overreach and the targeting of parents and religious groups.
- **Commerce Department on Advancing Workforce Development:** On Wednesday, New America’s Future of Work and the Innovation Economy initiative hosted an event focused on state capacity building within the Department of Commerce.

4. **New Publications**

- **Does One Plus One Always Equal Two? Examining Complementarities in Educational Interventions**

RAND Corporation (January 2025)

In an elementary school setting, the report examines whether community-level interventions focusing on similar needs and providing resources to build capacity in these communities could improve outcomes by improving the effectiveness of individual-level interventions.

- **K-12 STEM Education and Workforce Development in Rural Areas**

National Academies (December 2024)

The report asserts that rural areas can provide a rich context for learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), but these communities and

the students in them are often overlooked in ongoing efforts to expand access to high-quality K-12 STEM education and workforce development.

5. **In the News**

- **RFK Jr. Could Pull Many Levers to Hinder Childhood Immunization as HHS Head**

The 74 (January 16, 2025)

- **Secretary Cardona: Public Education is Worth Fighting For**

US Department of Education (January 16, 2025)

- **Biden's Education Grades: F On FAFSA, An Incomplete on Student Loan Forgiveness**

NPR (January 16, 2025)

- **Schools Are Trying to Get Ahead of Trump and Protect Undocumented Students**

USA Today (January 14, 2025)

- **Six Innovations to Strengthen the STEM Educator Workforce**

US Department of Education | Homeroom (January 13, 2025)

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

- **Senate HELP Committee Organizing Hearing:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a meeting to organize for the 119th Congress.

Tuesday at 10am ET

- **Future of the US Department of Education:** The Brookings Institution will hold a discussion on "The Future of the U.S. Department of Education."

Tuesday at 3pm ET

- **House Appropriations Organizing Hearing:** The House Appropriations Committee will hold a meeting to organize for the 119th Congress.

Thursday at 10am ET

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

- **Senate floor**

- **S.6**, Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

- **House floor**

- **H.R. 471** – Fix Our Forests Act (Sponsored by Rep. Westerman / Natural Resources Committee)

- **S. 5** – Laken Riley Act (Sponsored by Sen. Britt / Judiciary Committee)

- **H.R. 21** – Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (Sponsored by Rep. Wagner / Judiciary Committee)

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

9. **About BPAG**

COSSBA Policy Priorities

BROADBAND AND CONNECTIVITY

COSSBA JOINS AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

COSSBA has joined a group of 21 organizations that represent U.S. schools, school districts, state education agencies, and libraries in filing a court document known as an Amicus Brief, or “Friend of the Court” brief, that addresses a decision made by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case, *Federal Communications Commission v. Consumers’ Research*. The brief’s signatories all rely on the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Program, commonly known as the E-Rate Program. This program, funded by the Universal Service Fund, helps schools and libraries, especially those in high-need areas, afford essential services like broadband internet and WiFi to support education. The 5th Circuit decision threatens to eliminate a major source of funding for the E-Rate Program and other similar initiatives. These organizations, with their deep experience and interest in the program, are asking the Court to reconsider the decision because it puts vital services at risk. For decades, programs funded by the universal service fee have provided affordable and reliable telecommunications services, including high-speed internet, to underserved communities across the country, particularly in rural and low-income areas. If the Fifth Circuit’s decision is upheld, it could dismantle these programs, undermining efforts to ensure equal access to education and essential technology for all Americans and particularly our public schools. The brief can be viewed [here](#).

CHILD NUTRITION

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM, 2025 REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Last week, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a notice that informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program. These adjustments address changes in the Consumer Price Index, as required under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The 2025 reimbursement rates are presented as a combined set of rates to highlight simplified cost accounting procedures. The 2025 rates are also presented individually, as separate operating and administrative rates of reimbursement, to show the effect of the Consumer Price Index adjustment on each rate. On average, the 2025 rates adjustment represents a 3.6 percent increase in the rates from last year. More details can be found in the Federal Register [here](#).

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

President Donald Trump was inaugurated yesterday, and he immediately [announced executive orders right after his inauguration on Monday](#). While Bose Public Affairs is working on a report fully summarizing these orders, two in particular that may impact public education include one ending diversity, equity, and inclusion practices in the federal government and defining gender. He also signed an order vacating outgoing President Joe Biden’s executive orders. The Biden Administration’s student loan debt relief occurred under executive action, and GOP leaders have repeatedly said they intend to eliminate the efforts as soon as they are able, even though the Biden administration announced its [final round of student loan forgiveness](#) on Thursday afternoon, approving more than \$600 million for 4,550 borrowers through the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan and 4,100 individual borrower defense approvals.

Last week, Capitol Hill leadership asked that the new Administration hold off on any executive orders that might end the student loan relief program before they can. That's because elimination of the relief programs will ostensibly yield federal budgetary savings—savings that Republican leaders will need as they put together a large reconciliation package that will include a number of Trump's policy priorities. The Education and Workforce Committee will likely receive a sizable reconciliation instruction as authorizing committees pull together a package, and student loan programs can help. A lot. They will want to influence how those programs end and how the resulting savings are used.

Lawmakers continue to organize the 119th Congress. In the House, additional committee leadership and membership decisions were made. Former House Education and (the) Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) is the new Chair of the powerful Rules Committee. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) announced Democratic Committee assignments as well, with some additions to the education and spending panels. In the Senate, the process of confirming those nominated to cabinet posts by President-elect Trump started. A hearing for Education Secretary nominee Linda McMahon hasn't been scheduled yet, but education did come up elsewhere.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Executive orders targeting education policies, or the rescinding of executive orders from the Biden Administration are underway. Several education-related Biden executive orders that President Trump has rescinded include:

- Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity
- White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
- White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities
- White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans
- White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Furthermore, Attorney General nominee Pamela Bondi was asked about the ability of parents to voice concerns at school board meetings. In his opening remarks, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) asserted that the FBI conducted investigations into parents expressing opposition to curriculum choices and COVID-19 mandates during such meetings; he criticized these investigations as an example of what he characterized as undue governmental overreach. Senator Katie Britt (R-AL) cited similar concerns and referred to the Biden administration's alleged targeting of parents attending school board meetings, framing it as an issue of concern for parents who want their children educated, "not indoctrinated." Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) followed suit and criticized the October 2021 memorandum issued by Attorney General Merrick Garland, which directed law enforcement to address threats at school board meetings. The McMahon hearing will certainly host more discussion of these concerns.

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

BIDEN HONORS 336 EDUCATORS WITH TOP SCIENCE, MATH AWARDS

On Monday, President Joe Biden [honored](#) 336 educators and mentors with the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching ([PAEMST](#)) and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring ([PAESMEM](#)). Established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest recognition for K-12 math and science teachers in the United States, while PAESMEM, established in 1995, honors individuals and organizations excelling in mentoring underrepresented groups in STEM fields. Recipients represent all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and U.S. territories. Each awardee undergoes a rigorous selection process and receives a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Awardees have not been announced for years, prompting letters and other outreach from organizations representing STEM teachers to the White House. That outreach noted that there has not been a White House ceremony honoring these educators and their importance in developing the STEM workforce the country needs since 2020. Advocates hope program administrators will return to timely awardee announcements and that White House ceremonies will be held once again during the Trump administration. Recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are [listed here](#).

NEW INSTITUTE FOR A STEM READY AMERICA NAMES INAUGURAL DIRECTOR

The STEM Next Opportunity Fund [announced](#) on Monday that it has appointed Camsie McAdams as the inaugural Director of the [Institute for a STEM Ready America](#), advancing its mission to prepare a STEM-ready generation through out-of-school-time learning. With over 25 years of leadership experience, including roles at the White House and Discovery Education, McAdams will lead efforts to engage 20 million youth through transformative STEM programs and connect them to future career opportunities. [Unveiled](#) last month, the Institute aims to bridge the gap in STEM education by uniting 100,000 afterschool and summer programs with industry and policymakers, addressing the need for high-quality STEM experiences for the 80 percent of youth's time spent outside the classroom. Under McAdams' leadership, the Institute hopes to provide innovative solutions to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and innovation among young learners to shape tomorrow's workforce.

AEI EXPLORES LEGAL BOUNDARIES OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

On Monday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Wheatley Institute hosted a number of panel discussions during an event entitled, "What Are Parents' Rights, and How Far Do They Go?" moderated by AEI's Naomi Schaefer Riley and Adam J. White, as well as Emily Putnam-Hornstein from The University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill. The first panel, which included Marci Hamilton, CEO of CHILD USA, focused on legal developments in the field of parental rights and presented a wide diversity of viewpoints on the protections deserved by minors in the United States. Ms. Hamilton took particular umbrage with her co-panelists' focus on what they found to be an oppositional balance between the rights of parents and children, rather than acknowledging the very real progress being made in child welfare science and clinical research. The second panel transitioned to the medical sphere with panelists discussing the harms of "medical child abuse" and how increased parental rights might protect against harmful administrative actions taken by the state. Several speakers, including Emma Camp of Reason

Foundation and Leor Sapir of the Manhattan Institute, attributed culture war conflicts, like gender ideology in schools, as critical to dividing parents and children. While each presenter often disagreed with one another and offered different ideological perspectives, they seemingly agree that the framing of children's rights as directly opposed to the rights of parents has failed to serve the needs of American families. The event was concluded with a final panel on child welfare interventions, where several panelists discussed the rise in Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy diagnoses and their concern over state administrative actions taken to separate children from their families. A full recording of the event can be found [here](#).

HOUSE PASSES BILL BANNING TRANSGENDER ATHLETES IN WOMEN SPORTS

Last Tuesday, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act (H.R. 28), a bill that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in women's school sports. The legislation, which passed 218-206 along party lines with minimal Democratic support, would amend Title IX to define sex based on "reproductive biology and genetics at birth." Only two Democrats, Representatives Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX), voted in favor of the bill while one Democrat, Representative Don Davis (D-NC), voted present. Schools violating the act could lose federal funding. The new House Education and Workforce Committee Chair Tim Walberg (R-MI) expressed support for the measure, emphasizing the importance of preserving opportunities for women in athletics. He argued that allowing biological males to compete in women's sports undermines progress in gender equality and likened it to excluding women from sports entirely. Walberg praised the bill's passage in the House and commended its sponsor, Representative Greg Steube (R-FL), along with the women advocating for the future of women's athletics. Other supporters, such as Representative Rudy Yakym (R-IN), argued the bill protects fairness in women's sports, while opponents, including Representative Maxwell Frost (D-FL), criticized it as a political move disconnected from economic and social priorities. Representative John Larson (D-CT) suggested the issue is better addressed by states and local agencies rather than Congress. The bill faces significant hurdles in the Senate, where Republicans will need help from seven Democrats to pass the bill due to the filibuster. Despite this, some Republicans have expressed confidence in the bill's potential success, framing it as a response to public opinion during the election.

WAYS & MEANS DEBATES TCJA PERMANENCY, FUTURE OF CHILD TAX CREDIT

Last Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on making the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) permanent, which included robust discussions on the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Witnesses and members highlighted its significance in reducing financial strain for families. Margaret Marple, a parent, emphasized the CTC's vital role in offsetting household expenses like medical bills and groceries, advocating for its permanent expansion. Critics of the TCJA, such as Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and Suzan DelBene (D-WA), stressed the negative impact of allowing the 2021 CTC expansion to expire, which had halved child poverty but saw rates double afterward. They called for the restoration of a fully refundable CTC to better support low-income families. Conversely, proponents of the TCJA, including Representatives Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) and Blake Moore (R-UT), highlighted the credit's benefits under the existing provisions and proposed enhancements like Moore's "baby bonus" for families with young children. The CTC emerged as a focal point in the broader debate over balancing tax policy priorities between supporting working families and addressing fiscal sustainability.

US EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UNVEILS INAUGURAL OPEN DATA PLAN

Last Tuesday, the Department of Education (ED) launched its inaugural [Open Data Plan](#), aiming to enhance transparency, accessibility, and collaboration in education. Aligned with [FAIR data principles](#)—findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability—the plan outlines four key actions supported by specific tasks to address gaps in open data practices. These tasks include short-term activities for 2025-2027, with measurable benchmarks to assess progress and refine approaches. The initiative seeks to make education data widely available, fostering innovation, improving student outcomes, expanding research, and guiding data-informed policy. ED emphasized the collective role of stakeholders in leveraging open data for societal benefits, ensuring equitable access, and fostering trust. The plan represents a commitment to making transparency the standard, with the goal of empowering communities and driving positive change in education. ED will showcase these efforts at its [Open Data Day event](#) highlighting the transformative impact of open data initiatives. ED will share more information and updates leading up to the event on [LinkedIn](#).

BROOKINGS ADDRESSES STUDENT DISENGAGEMENT, FOSTERING READINESS

Last Tuesday, *Brookings* held a webinar titled, “‘The Disengaged Teen’: How to Help Children Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better.” Discussion on “The Disengaged Teen” examined the critical issue of student disengagement in K-12 education, emphasizing its impact on learning, well-being, and future readiness. Moderated by *The New York Times*’s Jessica Grose, the event featured insights from Rebecca Winthrop, Director of Universal Education, and other panelists, including journalist Jenny Anderson and Susquehanna School District Superintendent Tamara Willis. The group presented a framework for understanding student engagement through four modes: Passengers (passive participants), Achievers (performance-driven, sometimes at the cost of mental health), Resisters (actively disengaged), and Explorers (the ideal mode, where students connect learning to real-world interests). The panel highlighted how relational and social factors, particularly parental involvement, significantly influence engagement. They addressed systemic challenges such as outdated education models and post-pandemic setbacks, especially among students in grades 3-7. Tamara Willis advocated for innovative approaches like competency-based models, mixed-age classrooms, and feedback-focused rubrics instead of traditional grading, aiming to foster autonomy and purpose. The webinar stressed the importance of preserving students’ intrinsic interests and leveraging curiosity-driven learning within supportive environments. Case studies from Ohio, Indiana, and Rhode Island showcased successful transitions toward modernized education systems. In closing, panelists called for collaboration among educators, policymakers, and families to reimagine education, ensuring it not only re-engages students but also equips them with the skills needed for a dynamic and evolving future. A recording of the event is [here](#).

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE SETS PRIORITIES FOR 119TH CONGRESS

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce convened its [organizing meeting for the 119th Congress](#), setting its priorities and leadership structure. Chair Tim Walberg (R-MI) emphasized addressing K-12 education challenges, controlling college costs, and promoting market-based healthcare solutions. He called for professionalism and spirited debate to foster innovation and entrepreneurship while countering perceived union and special interest dominance. Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) highlighted achievements in job creation and historic education funding during the prior Congress and pledged to reauthorize the Workforce

Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and protect affordable healthcare access. Scott also proposed enabling remote witness testimonies for inclusivity. The committee established the subcommittee leadership, with Representatives Kevin Kiley (R-CA) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) leading Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education; Representatives Burgess Owens (R-UT) and Alma Adams (D-NC) leading Higher Education and Workforce Development; Representatives Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN) leading Workforce Protections; and Representatives Rick Allen (R-GA) and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) leading Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions. Key debates revealed partisan divides, with Republicans focused on entrepreneurship and labor union reform and Democrats prioritizing education and healthcare investment, opposing Project 2025 initiatives. Operational updates included adopting electronic voting and oversight plans to address data misuse concerns. Despite differences, the committee committed to workforce readiness and skill development, aiming for collaboration in the legislative session.

SENS. CRITICIZE FBI OVERREACH, ADVOCATE FOR PARENT RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

On Wednesday, The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the nomination of the Pam Bondi to be Attorney General of the United States. Bondi served as Florida Attorney General from 2011 to 2019, the first woman elected to the office, and in 2020, Bondi was one of President Donald Trump's defense lawyers during his first impeachment trial. During Wednesday's hearing, multiple Republican senators criticized what they described as governmental overreach and the targeting of parents and religious groups. Committee Chair Charles Grassley (R-IA) highlighted FBI investigations into parents voicing concerns at school board meetings as undue interference. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) expanded on the theme of "weaponization of government," citing instances such as targeting Catholics, school board meeting attendees, and peaceful protesters. Bondi echoed these concerns, emphasizing the labeling of parents as domestic terrorists and surveillance in churches. Senator Katie Britt (R-AL) also criticized the Biden administration's handling of parents at school board meetings, presenting it as part of broader concerns about indoctrination in education. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) focused on public safety, advocating for parents to feel secure when taking their children to school. Lastly, Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) condemned the October 2021 memo from Attorney General Merrick Garland, which he claimed unfairly labeled some parents as potential domestic terrorists. He called for the memo's rescission to safeguard parents' First Amendment rights. Bondi's first day of questioning can be watched [here](#).

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ON ADVANCING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, New America's [Future of Work and the Innovation Economy initiative](#) hosted an event focused on state capacity building within the Department of Commerce. Panelists included Rachel Lipson with the National Institute of Standards and Technology; Rachel Sun with the Economic Development Administration; and David Langdon, Deputy Director of Policy and Strategic Planning for the Department of Commerce, who highlighted the transformative impact of federal initiatives such as the CHIPS and Science Act, the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The discussion emphasized collaboration between federal and state governments, interagency cooperation, and innovative approaches to workforce measurement and outcomes. Key topics included advancements in technology infrastructure, workforce training initiatives in partnership with the Department of Labor, and efforts to boost participation from historically underrepresented groups, such as

increasing women's involvement in the construction industry through CHIPS companies. Looking forward, the speakers shared an optimistic vision for workforce development, noting the importance of procedural organization, policy innovation, and sustained intergovernmental collaboration to drive progress, particularly under potential new leadership in the federal administration. A recording of the event is [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Does One Plus One Always Equal Two? Examining Complementarities in Educational Interventions

RAND Corporation (January 2025)

In an elementary school setting, the report examines whether community-level interventions focusing on similar needs and providing resources to build capacity in these communities could improve outcomes by improving the effectiveness of individual-level interventions.

K-12 STEM Education and Workforce Development in Rural Areas

National Academies (December 2024)

The report asserts that rural areas can provide a rich context for learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), but these communities and the students in them are often overlooked in ongoing efforts to expand access to high-quality K-12 STEM education and workforce development.

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5. In the News

RFK Jr. Could Pull Many Levers to Hinder Childhood Immunization as HHS Head

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USA Today (January 14, 2025)

Six Innovations to Strengthen the STEM Educator Workforce

US Department of Education | Homeroom (January 13, 2025)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Hearing: Senate HELP Committee Organizing Hearing

Subject: The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a meeting to organize for the 119th Congress.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Webinar: Future of the US Department of Education

Subject: The Brookings Institution will hold a discussion on "The Future of the U.S. Department of Education."

Participants: Margret Spellings, former Secretary of Education (Bush 43), executive director, Bipartisan Policy Center; Arne Duncan, former Secretary of Education (Obama), managing partner, Chicago CRED; John B. King, Jr., former Secretary of Education (Obama), chancellor, State University of New York; and Michael Hansen, senior fellow, Brookings.

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Hearing: House Appropriations Organizing Hearing

Subject: The House Appropriations Committee will hold a meeting to organize for the 119th Congress.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

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7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor:

- [S.6](#), Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

House Floor:

- [H.R. 471](#) – Fix Our Forests Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Westerman / Natural Resources Committee*)
- [S. 5](#) – Laken Riley Act (*Sponsored by Sen. Britt / Judiciary Committee*)
- [H.R. 21](#) – Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Wagner / Judiciary Committee*)

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8. Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events

[U.S. House and Senate 2025 Schedule](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions](#)

[U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor](#)

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9. 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:

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- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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