



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

MARCH 10, 2025

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. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**
 - **Funding**
 - **104 Organizations Ask for Renewal of Critical Education Department Grants**: On February 27, 104 organizations addressed a letter to key congressional leaders expressing deep concern over the cancellation of the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED), Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP), and Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) grants.
 - **House LLH-ED Appropriations Committee Members Remark on Education**: On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a “Member Day,” allowing Committee Members to give testimony on related issues of concern.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **New America Shares Insights on Technology in Early Learning**: On February 25, New America hosted the second session of its webinar series, “Tablets and Teaching: When, If, and How in Early Learning.”
 - **Education Department Announces Additional Trump-Vance Appointees**: On February 28, the Department of Education (ED) announced additional political

appointees to support President Donald Trump’s agenda of empowering parents and enhancing accountability in education.

- **President Trump Holds Joint Address to Congress:** On Tuesday, President Donald Trump held a much-anticipated Joint Address to Congress, themed “Renewal of the American Dream.”
- **Secretary McMahon Confirmed Amid Major Reform Efforts, Pending EO:** Monday night, the Senate confirmed Linda McMahon as the U.S. Secretary of Education, a role in which she will lead a major transformation of the Department of Education under President Trump.
- **Largest Teachers’ Union Sues Education Department over DEI Threats:** The National Education Association (NEA), alongside its New Hampshire affiliate and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday challenging the Department of Education’s (ED) February 14th directive that threatens to withhold federal funding from schools with race-based programming.
- **AEI Holds Webinar on AI’s Role in Education and Learning:** On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted a webinar, “School Rethink 2.0: Shaping the Future with Personalization, Mastery Learning, and AI,” featuring experts from Khan Academy, MasteryTrack, The Learning Accelerator, and AEI.
- **House Education and Workforce Panel Examines WIOA Reauthorization:** On Wednesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, held a hearing titled “Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for America’s Workforce.”
- **House Sanctuary City Hearing Highlights Associated Education Issues:** On Wednesday, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform **held a hearing** with “Sanctuary City” Mayors, where Democratic lawmakers and city officials expressed concerns over the impact of immigration enforcement on students and communities.

4. **New Publications**

- **What Can California, Texas, and Washington, D.C. Teach Us About How to Diversify the Teacher Workforce?**
National Council on Teacher Quality (February 2025)
The report explores what factors contribute to California, Texas, and Washington D.C.’s relatively high rates of teacher diversity and how their policies and practices will likely affect teacher quality.
- **Merging Public Elementary Schools to Reduce Racial/Ethnic Segregation**
PNAS Nexus (March 2025)
Focusing on elementary schools, the study explores how, and how much, one particular policy—school mergers—might promote integration, and how much this strategy might increase travel times for families across different districts.

5. **In the News**

- **NIH Nominee Skirts Questions on Plan to Cut Indirect Cost Rates**
Inside Higher Ed (March 6, 2025)
- **How Small Can The Education Department Get Without Congress Changing The Law?**

The Hill (March 5, 2025)

- **Rise In Measles Has Schools on Alert**
K-12 Dive (March 5, 2025)
- **After Outcry, Education Department Walks Back Diversity Guidance**
The 74 (March 3, 2025)
- **Education Department Offers \$25K For Staffers to Quit**
The 74 (March 3, 2025)

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

- **House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on School Choice:** The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Education Without Limits: Exploring the Benefits of School Choice."
Tuesday at 10:15AM ET
- **Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Online Child Protections:** The Senate Judiciary Crime and Counterterrorism Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Ending the Scourge: The Need for the STOP CSAM (Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment) Act."
Tuesday at 2:30PM ET
- **AI Literacy on National AI Literacy Day:** Google and ISTE will hold a webinar to explore the importance of AI literacy and its role in bridging the digital divide.
Wednesday at 12PM ET
- **Importance of Federal Investments in Education:** The Committee for Education Funding will hold a briefing on "The Value and Importance of Federal Investments in Education."
Wednesday at 2PM ET
- **Shaping the Future of AI in K-12 Education:** *Education Week* will hold a webinar to examine practical insights on how AI is transforming education today and what the future holds.
Wednesday at 2PM ET
- **Senate HELP Committee on FDA Nominee:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a markup to vote on the nomination of Martin Makary to be commissioner of Food and Drug Administration.
Thursday at 9:30AM ET

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Learning from Louisiana's Progress in K-12 Education:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a virtual discussion on "What Can We Learn from Louisiana's Progress in K-12 Education?"
March 19 at 4PM ET

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

- **Senate floor**
 - **S.331, HALT Fentanyl Act**
 - **Consideration of Lori Chavez-DeRemer** to be Secretary of Labor

- **Consideration of Steven Bradbury** to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation
- **Consideration of Abigail Slater** to be Assistant Attorney General
- **House floor**
 - **H.R. 1156** – Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act (Sponsored by Rep. Smith (MO) / Ways and Means Committee)
 - **H.J. Res. 25** – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales." (Sponsored by Rep. Carey / Ways and Means Committee)

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

10. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

FUNDING

104 ORGS ASK FOR RENEWAL OF CRITICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GRANTS

On February 27, 104 organizations **addressed a letter to key congressional leaders** expressing deep concern over the cancellation of the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED), Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP), and Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) grants. These programs, which work to address teacher shortages and recruit highly trained professionals into classrooms across the United States, were recently canceled by the Department of Education (ED). The organizations argue that all three grants are critical to building more effective educator pipelines, and canceling these programs would have detrimental effects to low-income districts. Specifically, the letter says, these programs provide high-quality, affordable, work-based pathways to expand the pool of qualified teachers, particularly in regions with acute shortages in areas like STEM, early childhood education, special education, and multilingual learners. While ED has not disclosed the full number of programs terminated, all SEED and most TQP grants have been effectively canceled. The letter highlights specific states that would be negatively impacted by the cancellation of these programs, as well as showcasing stories of soon-to-be educators unexpectedly losing their funding to pursue teaching degrees. The signatories note that supporting more flexible pathways into the educator workforce is precisely the action needed in the wake of critical teacher shortages across the United States. Throughout the letter, there are references to these programs already being appropriated and funded by Congress – and that ED’s cancellation of these grants contradicts action taken by legislators to support teachers and students. The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR), and over 100 other organizations signed the letter, urging Congress to request the then-Acting Secretary reinstate these teacher training programs. AACTE, NCTR, and the Maryland Association of Colleges for Teacher Education also this week **filed a suit** in the

U.S. District Court of Maryland, arguing that these recent cuts and terminations of the SEED, TQP, and TSL grants are illegal and should be reversed.

HOUSE LHHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS REMARK ON EDUCATION

On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a “Member Day,” allowing Committee Members to give testimony on related issues of concern. The proceeding featured extensive discussions on education policy, particularly around career and technical education (CTE), Pell Grants, and broader education funding. Congressman GT Thompson (R-PA) emphasized the importance of CTE programs in equipping students with workforce-ready skills, highlighting their role in high schools, technical centers, and community colleges. He noted that CTE programs boast a 96 percent high school graduation rate, significantly higher than the national average, and called for increased funding to support their growing demand. Congressman Seth Magaziner (R-RI) stressed the need to expand Pell Grants, arguing that their value has not kept pace with rising tuition costs, making college less accessible for low- and middle-income students. He also urged increased funding for CTE innovation and modernization grants to ensure these programs remain aligned with labor market needs. Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) echoed support for Pell Grants and CTE, warning against proposed cuts to education funding and emphasizing the Department of Education’s central role in maintaining these critical programs. The discussion underscored bipartisan support for workforce training initiatives while also revealing concerns over potential reductions in federal education funding.

[Back to top](#)

2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The continuing resolution that is keeping the federal government open and operating will expire Friday. Is a shutdown possible? Maybe.

Last week, it was reported that congressional appropriators were making progress on determining top-line funding levels for FY 2025 spending; as of week’s end, that progress seemingly disappeared. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) told reporters on Thursday, “I am no longer as optimistic as I was yesterday. We continue to talk — by we, I mean the four top appropriators — but I would not say that the talks are promising at this point.” She went on to say that she expects the House to send the Senate a full-year continuing resolution next week.

That intention matched House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole’s (R-OK) plans, the first step of which was realized over the weekend. Cole wants the House and Senate to pass a continuing resolution that funds the government for the remainder of FY 2025 next week. Over the weekend, House Republicans introduced a 99-page continuing resolution (CR) that would extend government funding at FY 2024 levels through FY 2025. The proposal increases defense spending by \$6 billion while cutting non-defense funding by \$13 billion, primarily through the rescission of \$20 billion from the IRS, with partial offsets including additional funding for the WIC nutrition program. The bill does eliminate \$300 million in earmarks within Department of Education (ED) accounts - \$202 million cut for higher education earmarks and \$88 million in K-12 funding earmarks.

Democrats strongly oppose the CR, arguing that it lacks necessary funding directives and instead serves as a discretionary spending tool for the administration. While its passage remains uncertain,

it may still gain enough bipartisan support despite conservative objections. House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) prefers full-year funding bills that require the Administration to implement the funding bills as passed by Congress. Of course, Republicans don't want to limit the Administration's authority. Her preference would be enacting a shorter continuing resolution, which maintains pressure on lawmakers to enact full-year funding bills.

But. Plot twist. If Congress is successful in passing this initial CR, Cole has said he'd like Congress to continue working on individual FY 2025 bills that could replace parts of the continuing resolution. He'd like all work on FY 2025 to be done before the President submits his FY 2026 budget request, which is expected next month. That plan sounds...odd to longtime observers of the appropriations process, and ambitious given Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) ongoing difficulty managing his Republican members—particularly on spending matters.

This week will be a crucial one in the FY 2025 spending process as the halfway mark in the fiscal year approaches. The House is scheduled to be in recess on Thursday and Friday, so lawmakers only have until Wednesday—unless they change the calendar—to work out an agreement that doesn't force a federal government shutdown. Presumably, neither party wants that. We'll see.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

For education stakeholders watching, the ongoing budget impasse and potential government shutdown create instability. The next few days will be critical in determining whether schools, students, and education programs face disruptions due to delayed or uncertain federal funding.

[Back to top.](#)

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

NEW AMERICA SHARES INSIGHTS ON TECHNOLOGY IN EARLY LEARNING

On February 25, New America hosted the second session of its webinar series, “Tablets and Teaching: When, If, and How in Early Learning.” The discussion explored the evolving role of technology in early childhood education, addressing concerns over screen time while recognizing its potential to reduce administrative burdens and support English learners and children with disabilities. Following opening remarks by the panelists, the discussion then shifted to disparities in technology access within schools. Acelero Learning's Carlis highlighted funding challenges in Head Start programs, stressing the need for equitable access, experience, and outcomes. Preschool teacher Rachel Giannini underscored the importance of educating parents on the benefits of technology, while early childhood tech coach Amy Turcotte emphasized family engagement and the need for creative, accessible learning opportunities. Former kindergarten teacher Elise Franchino explained how digital tools can enhance assessment and collaboration for dual-language learners, and second-grade teacher Beth Williams discussed the benefits of voice-to-text tools and educational apps in hybrid learning environments. The panel also addressed best practices and technology policies and agreed that game-based learning apps should engage students actively rather than serve as passive entertainment. They emphasized that technology should support teachers rather than add to their workload. Throughout the discussion, panelists reaffirmed that play-based learning remains a priority, advocating for intentional tech integration that enhances—not replaces—traditional lessons. A recording of the event is [here](#).

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL TRUMP-VANCE APPOINTEES

On February 28, the Department of Education (ED) announced additional political appointees to support President Donald Trump's agenda of empowering parents and enhancing accountability in education. The appointments include **Sarah Ursprung** as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, bringing experience as a former Policy Advisor in the Trump administration and Director of Government Relations at Heritage Action for America. **Hayley Sanon**, named Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, previously served as a K-12 Education Policy Advisor for the Senate HELP Committee, an AEI Program Manager, and a 7th-grade math teacher. **Steven Schaefer** joins as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy in the Office for Civil Rights, having worked at the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights and the Federalist Society's Regulatory Transparency Project. **David Samberg**, appointed Counsel in the Office for Civil Rights, formerly served as Investigative Counsel for the House Education and Workforce Committee, focusing on educational oversight and Title VI and VII issues. **Andrew Cuff**, a former educator and policy expert with the America First Policy Institute, takes on the role of Chief Speechwriter. **Murray Bessette**, formerly Director of Academic Programs at the Alexander Hamilton Society and a political science professor, becomes Senior Advisor in the Office of Postsecondary Education. **Ellen Keast**, a media strategist from DCI with experience in political campaigns and public affairs, steps in as Deputy Press Secretary. According to the ED's announcement, these appointments align with the administration's broader focus on decentralizing federal control over education, increasing parental involvement, and reducing bureaucratic oversight. The newly appointed officials are expected to advance key educational objectives within an agency already facing the possibility of a major overhaul.

PRESIDENT TRUMP HOLDS JOINT ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump held a much-anticipated Joint Address to Congress, themed "Renewal of the American Dream." The 100-minute speech outlined his administration's priorities and accomplishments within his first 43 days in office. He emphasized border security, economic policies, and government restructuring, highlighting the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, to reduce federal spending. Trump touted his record number of executive actions, including freezing federal hiring, withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord, and implementing new tariffs on China, Canada, and Mexico. His focus on education was minimal and largely tied to cultural and ideological debates: He criticized Critical Race Theory, DEI policies, transgender participation in women's sports, and announced initiatives such as making English the official language of the United States. His speech concluded with a call for national unity, optimism, and innovation, portraying his administration as ushering in a new "golden age" for America. The Democratic response, delivered by Senator Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), criticized Trump's governance as reckless and divisive, advocating instead for responsible change focused on middle-class economic security, democratic values, and pragmatic immigration reform. A comprehensive summary prepared by BPAG is [here](#).

SECRETARY MCMAHON CONFIRMED AMID MAJOR REFORM EFFORTS, PENDING EO

Monday night, the Senate confirmed Linda McMahon as the U.S. Secretary of Education, a role in which she will lead a major transformation of the Department of Education under President Trump. In a statement, McMahon emphasized her commitment to advancing education freedom, reducing federal oversight, and prioritizing the needs of students, families, and teachers over

government-controlled systems. She reiterated the administration's vision of shifting education decision-making to states and empowering parents with school choice. McMahon's leadership marks a significant shift in federal education policy, aligning with President Trump's promise to reduce bureaucracy and return control of education to local communities.

In an open letter to Department employees, McMahon acknowledged the responsibility of overseeing the agency and supporting the millions of students relying on the education system for future success. She reaffirmed her dedication to President Trump's vision of decentralizing education and eliminating unnecessary federal intervention. Secretary McMahon's letter to ED employees acknowledges President Trump's issuance of numerous executive orders (EOs) aimed at reshaping the education system, including efforts to combat critical race theory, DEI initiatives, gender ideology, and discrimination in admissions while promoting school choice and restoring traditional civics education. She also notes that his administration has been focused on eliminating waste, red tape, and ineffective federal programs. McMahon asserts that under this new direction, ED will prioritize returning oversight to states and discontinuing bureaucratic overreach and warned that this shift would significantly impact department staff, budgets, and operations, requiring collaboration with Congress and federal agencies to ensure a smooth transition.

Alongside Secretary McMahon's published letter, an email to ED employees has been circulating among education policy stakeholders outlining the administration's broader goal to eliminate the Department of Education, referring to an imminent EO titled, "Executive Order XYX: Eliminating the Department of Education." The signing of the EO has since been paused, yet the email outlined several points: 1) Parents should be the primary decision-makers in their children's education, 2) Taxpayer-funded education should focus on meaningful learning in core subjects such as math, reading, science, and history, 3) Postsecondary education should serve as a pathway to well-paying careers aligned with workforce needs, and 4) Students deserve to be protected from physical violence, racial discrimination, medical tyranny, and gender extremism. ED employees have been urged to embrace this vision and participate in the transition with a sense of purpose.

LARGEST TEACHERS' UNION SUES EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OVER DEI THREATS

The National Education Association (NEA), alongside its New Hampshire affiliate and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday challenging the Department of Education's (ED) February 14th directive that threatens to withhold federal funding from schools with race-based programming. The plaintiffs argue that the ED's directive violates constitutional rights and goes against longstanding civil rights law protecting teachers and students. The lawsuit also targets the ED's "End DEI" portal, which allows the public to report DEI programs in schools. The "Dear Colleague" letter from the ED directs federally funded K-12 schools and universities to discontinue DEI programming or risk losing federal funding. The Trump administration cited the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 ruling on affirmative action in college admissions as legal reasoning. The letter has caused confusion among educators, who worry that it could undermine existing civil rights laws and create uncertainty about how to approach teaching sensitive topics like racism and identity. Critics argue that the vague language of the letter and its implications for school curriculum could lead to overcompliance, as schools and universities adjust to avoid potential investigations and funding cuts. The NEA's lawsuit contends that the directive, along with the Department's "End DEI" portal, overstep the agency's authority and represent a violation of constitutional rights. It argues that the ED is executing an unwarranted and

overreaching interference into academic freedom and that schools have already taken steps to remove or limit DEI initiatives. The lawsuit came just days after Linda McMahon was sworn in as Secretary of Education and highlights a broader tension over the role of federal authority vs. state authority in regulating education policy.

AEI HOLDS WEBINAR ON AI'S ROLE IN EDUCATION AND LEARNING

On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted a webinar, “School Rethink 2.0: Shaping the Future with Personalization, Mastery Learning, and AI,” featuring experts from Khan Academy, MasteryTrack, The Learning Accelerator, and AEI. The discussion explored AI’s role in education, mastery learning models, and the ongoing tension between personalization and standardized instruction. Panelists emphasized that AI should serve as a tool to support teachers rather than replace them. For example, Khan Academy’s Connigo assists with lesson planning and real-time feedback, alleviating administrative burdens on educators. However, AI’s effectiveness depends on its alignment with sound pedagogy and the preservation of essential human interactions in learning environments. Mastery learning emerged as a key framework for ensuring competency-based student progression. Unlike traditional seat-time models, mastery learning establishes clear objectives and proficiency thresholds. While challenges persist in integrating this approach within existing grading systems, structured implementation can enhance personalized instruction and improve student outcomes. Striking a balance between standardization and personalization remains a challenge. High-quality instructional materials provide a strong foundation, but schools require flexibility in instructional delivery. AI can facilitate differentiated learning while maintaining academic rigor, yet its success hinges on clear implementation strategies, effective teacher training, and alignment with broader educational goals. Looking ahead, AI’s role in education is expanding beyond text-based interactions to multimodal platforms with real-time engagement. These advancements could improve tutoring and assessments, but ethical and pedagogical considerations must guide AI adoption to ensure it serves students and educators effectively. The panel concluded that while AI and mastery learning hold transformative potential, their impact depends on thoughtful, strategic implementation. Schools must focus on integrating AI with best pedagogical practices, defining clear learning objectives, and providing educators with the necessary support to effectively leverage these innovations.

HOUSE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PANEL EXAMINES WIOA REAUTHORIZATION

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, held a hearing titled “Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for America’s Workforce.” The hearing provided insights on workforce development and the proposed reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which has yet to be reintroduced this Congress. Subcommittee Chairman Burgess Owens (R-UT) emphasized the need for reforms to better connect workers with employers, particularly through skills training, youth programs, and employer-driven initiatives. Ranking Member Alma Adams (D-NC) acknowledged WIOA’s successes but stressed the need for updates to ensure equitable access to good-paying jobs. The witnesses offered valuable testimony on aligning education with workforce needs: Stephen Moret advocated for enhanced data systems to improve employment tracking; Molly Dodge highlighted the role of community colleges in skills training and employer partnerships; Robert Sainz emphasized the need for WIOA reforms to better serve opportunity youth; and Nicholas Moore

underscored the importance of state flexibility and aligning workforce programs with labor market demands. Throughout the discussion, committee members addressed data collection, funding flexibility, and program alignment with industry needs. A reauthorization of WIOA made it into an omnibus spending bill at the end of last year but was ultimately removed from what ended up being yet another continuing resolution that is currently funding the federal government. Leaders of the House and Senate education committees have voiced interest in addressing an updated WIOA in the 119th Congress, but it is unclear if they will return to the package that had bipartisan support last Congress or take another approach. A comprehensive summary of the hearing prepared by BPAG is [here](#).

HOUSE SANCTUARY CITY HEARING HIGHLIGHTS ASSOCIATED EDUCATION ISSUES

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform [held a hearing](#) with “Sanctuary City” Mayors, where Democratic lawmakers and city officials expressed concerns over the impact of immigration enforcement on students and communities. Witnesses included the mayors of Boston, Chicago, Denver, and New York. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) highlighted fears among children, referencing a school district’s warning that ICE agents might board buses and a child’s note fearing deportation. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu detailed how fear of immigration enforcement was keeping students out of school and deterring community members from seeking medical care or reporting crimes. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) emphasized the need for a safe environment where all residents, regardless of status, can access essential services without fear. Both Mayor Wu and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson discussed investments in education, including expanded pre-K programs and summer job initiatives, as critical tools for crime prevention and community stability. Congressman Maxwell Frost (D-FL) condemned the idea of ICE targeting schools, while Denver Mayor Mike Johnston underscored schools as safe havens for children in mixed-status families. In contrast, Congressman Pat Fallon (R-TX) accused Democrats of spreading misinformation, particularly regarding ICE actions on school buses, and questioned the safety of cities like Chicago under their leadership. The hearing also featured the Cato Institute’s David Bier, Director of Immigration Studies and the minority witness, and underscored deep partisan divisions over immigration enforcement and public safety in sanctuary cities.

[Back to top.](#)

4. New Publications

What Can California, Texas, and Washington, D.C. Teach Us About How to Diversify the Teacher Workforce?

National Council on Teacher Quality (February 2025)

Nationally, the diversification of the teacher workforce is slowing compared to the diversification of college-educated adults, but California, Texas, and Washington, D.C. are bucking that trend. The report explores what factors contribute to their relatively high rates of teacher diversity and how their policies and practices will likely affect teacher quality.

Merging Public Elementary Schools To Reduce Racial/Ethnic Segregation

PNAS Nexus (March 2025)

Focusing on elementary schools, the study explores how, and how much, one particular policy—school mergers—might promote integration, and how much this strategy might increase travel times for families across different districts. Findings suggest that across many districts, school

mergers could meaningfully reduce segregation without imposing large travel burdens, revealing practical policy possibilities for fostering more equitable learning environments.

[Back to top.](#)

5. In the News

NIH Nominee Skirts Questions on Plan to Cut Indirect Cost Rates

Inside Higher Ed (March 6, 2025)

How Small Can The Education Department Get Without Congress Changing The Law?

The Hill (March 5, 2025)

Rise In Measles Has Schools on Alert

K-12 Dive (March 5, 2025)

After Outcry, Education Department Walks Back Diversity Guidance

The 74 (March 3, 2025)

Education Department Offers \$25K For Staffers to Quit

The Hill (March 3, 2025)

[Back to top.](#)

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Hearing: House Veterans Education Subcommittee on School Choice

Subject: The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Education Without Limits: Exploring the Benefits of School Choice."

Time: 10:15 a.m.

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

Hearing: Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Online Child Protections

Subject: The Senate Judiciary Crime and Counterterrorism Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Ending the Scourge: The Need for the STOP CSAM (Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment) Act."

Time: 2:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Webinar: AI Literacy on National AI Literacy Day

Subject: Google and ISTE will hold a webinar to explore the importance of AI literacy and its role in bridging the digital divide.

Participants: Joseph South, ISTE; Jennie Magiera, Google; and Sallie Holloway, Gwinnett County Public Schools.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Importance of Federal Investments in Education

Subject: The Committee for Education Funding will hold a briefing on “The Value and Importance of Federal Investments in Education.”

Participants: Jeff Cullen, assistant vice chancellor for federal relations, California State University; Richard Kincaid, senior executive director of college and career pathways, Maryland State Department of Education; and Jonathan Moody, superintendent, Maine School Administrative District 54, Skowhegan, Maine.

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Shaping the Future of AI in K-12 Education

Subject: EducationWeek will hold a webinar to examine practical insights on how AI is transforming education today and what the future holds.

Participants: Neil Wetherbee, superintendent, Northport Public Schools; Michael Lubelfeld, superintendent, North Shore District 112; Adrienne Usher, assistant superintendent, Bullitt County Public Schools; Caitlin Wlezien, instructional technology coordinator, Wood Dale School District 7; and Kendall Hunter, director of marketing, Otus.

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Markup: Senate HELP Committee on FDA Nominee

Subject: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a markup to vote on the nomination of Martin Makary to be commissioner of Food and Drug Administration.

Time: 9:30 a.m.

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

[Back to top.](#)

7. Future Hearings and Events

Tuesday, March 19, 2025

Webinar: Learning from Louisiana’s Progress in K-12 Education

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a virtual discussion on "What Can We Learn from Louisiana's Progress in K-12 Education?"

Participants: Anne Bowles, senior director of programs, Council of Chief State School Officers; Cade Brumley, state superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education; and Robert Pondisco, senior fellow, AEI.

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

[Back to top.](#)

8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor:

- [S.331](#), HALT Fentanyl Act
- Consideration of Lori Chavez-DeRemer to be Secretary of Labor
- Consideration of Steven Bradbury to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation
- Consideration of Abigail Slater to be Assistant Attorney General

House Floor:

- [H.R. 1156](#) – Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act (*Sponsored by Rep. Smith (MO) / Ways and Means Committee*)
- [H.J. Res. 25](#) – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales." (*Sponsored by Rep. Carey / Ways and Means Committee*)

[*Back to top.*](#)

9. 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](#)

[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.