



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

May 12, 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**

• **Funding/Child Nutrition**

• **New House Reconciliation Proposals Would Likely Negatively Impact Kids & Public Schools**

House Republicans late Monday released additional reconciliation drafts for the Energy & Commerce, Agriculture, and Ways & Means Committees. These budget bills will be marked-up late Tuesday. Each bill has a significant policy proposal that COSSBA opposes.

• **USDA Secretary Rollins Justifies Trump's FY226 Budget Request**: On Tuesday and Wednesday, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins testified before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees to present and defend the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **FY2026 Budget Request**.

• **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

• **Brookings Addresses STEM Teacher Shortage, Pathways Forward**: On Thursday, the Brookings Institution **hosted a webinar** titled, "Supporting and Expanding the K-12 STEM Teacher Pipeline."

• **Broadband Connectivity and E-Rate**

• **Senate Vote Threatens FCC Hotspot Expansion**: The end of E-rate eligibility for Wi-Fi hotspots came one step closer Thursday as the Senate

voted 50-38 along party lines to overturn a 2024 expansion of the program overseen by the Federal Communications Commission.

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **New America’s PAYA Showcases Value of Youth Apprenticeships**: New America’s **Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship** (PAYA) hosted its annual **Youth Apprenticeship Showcase** in celebration of National Apprenticeship Day.
- **Head Start Advocates Call for Protection Amid Federal Cuts**: On Monday, the Center for American Progress (CAP) hosted a **panel discussion** on the vital role of Head Start programs across the United States and the increasing challenges they face under the second Trump administration.
- **ASTC Highlights Public Sentiment Around Federal Science Investment**: On Tuesday, the Association of Science and Technical Centers **hosted a webinar** titled, “How U.S. Adults Perceive Science in This Moment.”
- **BPC Hosts Forum on Youth Mental Health, Substance Use Crisis**: On Tuesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) **hosted an event** focused on addressing the growing crisis in youth mental health and substance use.
- **Chair Walberg Outlines Education, Workforce Priorities at AEI Event**: On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted Congressman Tim Walberg (R-MI), Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, for a discussion on the future of federal education policy.
- **ED Issues Guidance on Unsafe School Choice Option Implementation**: On Wednesday, the Department of Education’s (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education **issued a letter** to all chief state school officers providing updated guidance on implementing the Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) under Section 8532 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

4. **New Publications**

- **When Micro Goes Macro: A Nationwide Review of States’ Educator Micro-Credential Policies**

New America (May 2025)

This report discusses best practices in educator micro-credential policy design and implementation and recommends six actions for state education leaders to harness this promising tool.

- **Trump Administration Weighs Future of Special Education Oversight and Funding**

Brookings (May 2025)

IDEA funding is the primary way the federal government influences how special education services are delivered. The report highlights that changes to how IDEA funding is structured could have far-reaching implications for students with disabilities.

5. **In the News**

- **Bill Gates Announces Plan to Give ‘Virtually All’ His Money Away And End The Gates Foundation In 20 Years**
CNN (May 8, 2025)
- **Community Impact Coalition Launches Campaign Encouraging Congress to Protect Nonprofit Organizations in 2025 Tax Reform**
Community Impact Coalition (May 7, 2025)
- **The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Is Long Overdue for Reform**
The 74 (May 7, 2025)
- **Education Researchers Sue Trump Administration, Testing Executive Power**
Hechinger Report (May 5, 2025)

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

- **House Appropriations Subcommittee on FY26 HHS Budget:** The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Budget Hearing - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”
Wednesday at 9:30am ET
- **House Education Subcommittee on Charter Schools:** The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Reimagining Education: How Charter Schools Are Closing Gaps and Opening Doors.”
Wednesday at 10:15am
- **Senate HELP Committee on FY26 HHS Budget:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on the "FY2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget.”
Wednesday at 1:30pm ET
- **Ending the Department of Education as it Turns 45:** The Cato Institute holds a forum on “Ending the U.S. Department of Education as It Turns 45.”
Wednesday at 5:30pm ET
- **The Threat Privatization Poses to Public Education:** The Center for American Progress and the National Center for Learning Disabilities will hold a virtual discussion on “Who Pays for Choice? The Threat Privatization Poses to Public Education.”
Thursday at 11am ET

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Should the Federal Government Shape School Curriculum?** The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion on “A Conversation on the Right: Should the Federal Government Shape School Curriculum?”
May 20 at 12pm ET
- **Why Did America Get Pandemic Schooling So Wrong?** The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) will hold a virtual discussion on “Why Did America Get Pandemic Schooling So Wrong?”
May 22 at 4pm ET

8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

- Senate floor: Consideration of nominees
- House floor
 - **H.R. 2240** – Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act (Sponsored by Rep. Moore (NC) / Judiciary Committee)
 - **H.R. 2243** – LEOSA Reform Act (Sponsored by Rep. Bacon / Judiciary Committee)
 - **H.R. 2255** – Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act of 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Fry / Judiciary Committee)

9. Important U.S. House and Senate Links

10. About BPAG

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

FUNDING/CHILD NUTRITION

UNEW HOUSE RECONCILIATION PROPOSALS WOULD LIKELY NEGATIVELY IMPACT KIDS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

House Republicans late Monday released additional reconciliation drafts for the Energy & Commerce, Agriculture, and Ways & Means Committees. These budget bills will be marked-up late Tuesday. Each bill has a policy proposal that COSSBA opposes. The Energy and Commerce Committee bill contains language that will place a strict limit on hospital provider taxes, which every state but Alaska uses to finance their Medicaid budget. It also creates significant new administrative requirement for states that will likely add new expenses that will have to be covered. The proposal means that many states will likely not have enough money to continue current benefits and will be forced to either end Medicaid coverage or significantly reduce benefits to cover their rising costs.

The Ag Committee bill would cut nearly \$290 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or “food stamps”) by shifting costs to state budgets. The bill requires at minimum a new 5 percent cost share from state governments but that share could be as high as 25 percent depending on error rates. This means state governments will now be responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in extra spending on annual food assistance, which we know many cannot afford. The bill also expands work and administrative requirements for adults with dependent children as young as eight years old, which could ultimately lead to millions of school aged children and their parents going without food aid. Any policy that makes kids hungrier when they get to school is a move in the wrong direction. Finally, the Ways and Means Committee’s proposed legislation includes a new \$5 billion federal tax credit program to support donations to state based scholarship or private school voucher programs.

COSSBA opposes these policies and has urged Members of Congress to oppose them as well. If you would like to take action – please visit the [COSSBA advocacy page](#). You can also take the [COSSBA advocacy survey](#) to help us better advocate for your needs with DC policymakers. If

you have any additional questions, please contact Jared Solomon at Bose Public Affairs Group:
jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com

USDA SECRETARY ROLLINS JUSTIFIES TRUMP'S FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins testified before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees to present and defend the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [FY2026 Budget Request](#). Secretary Rollins used her opening statements in both hearings to highlight USDA reforms and emphasize critical programs for farmers that would receive renewed funding under the proposed budget. For FY2026, the Trump Administration has requested \$25.1 billion for the USDA—an increase of \$1.6 billion from FY2025. Despite the overall increase, Secretary Rollins reiterated her commitment to eliminating waste, reducing regulatory burdens, and prioritizing the needs of farmers and ranchers. A major focus of the hearings was the USDA's response to the ongoing Avian Influenza outbreak and its impact on egg prices. Secretary Rollins outlined a five-pronged strategy to address the issue. Lawmakers also raised concerns about potential cuts to USDA staffing and grants, oversight of federal nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and funding levels for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) amid ongoing economic challenges in the agricultural sector. Throughout the hearings, Secretary Rollins framed the budget request as essential to restoring public trust in the USDA and strengthening U.S. leadership in global agriculture. Legislators from both parties questioned her on proposed changes to nutrition programs and efforts to modernize school meals. While there were disagreements over potential reductions to initiatives like the Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program and the Farm to School Program, both subcommittees expressed bipartisan support for improving rural economies and ensuring access to healthy food for students. Full recordings of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearings are available [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

BROOKINGS ADDRESSES STEM TEACHER SHORTAGE, PATHWAYS FORWARD

On Thursday, the Brookings Institution [hosted a webinar](#) titled, "Supporting and Expanding the K-12 STEM Teacher Pipeline." Michael Hansen of the Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings was joined by education experts Iris Wagstaff (The American Association for the Advancement of Science), Talia Milgrom-Elcott (Beyond100K), Ann Cavallo (University of Texas-Arlington), and Tuan Nguyen (University of Missouri) to discuss the growing need for STEM instruction and educators in U.S. schools. The panel highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated an already limited supply of STEM teachers, as demand for science, technology, engineering, and math instruction continues to rise. Panelists discussed longstanding barriers to recruiting and retaining STEM teachers, including low salaries, limited career support, and societal perceptions that discourage entry into the profession. A key theme of the discussion was the importance of diversifying the teacher pipeline by fostering inclusive environments that create a sense of belonging for underrepresented groups. One promising approach discussed was competency-based teacher training, especially for STEM professionals transitioning into education. These programs emphasize essential classroom skills and offer more focused, practical pathways into teaching. The panel also explored the potential of alternative certification models to attract new candidates without compromising teacher quality. While acknowledging concerns about education funding—particularly under the current Trump administration—panelists expressed cautious optimism that key efforts to support STEM educators would endure. They concluded by emphasizing that addressing the STEM teacher shortage is more than an education issue—it is a

national priority tied to economic competitiveness, innovation, and workforce readiness. Sustained investment and policy support will be crucial to meeting the country's future STEM education needs. A recording of the event is [here](#).

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND E-RATE SENATE VOTE THREATENS FCC HOTSPOT EXPANSION

Efforts to end [federal support for student internet hotspots](#) moved forward as the Senate voted 50-38 along party lines on Thursday to overturn a 2024 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decision expanding the E-rate program to include Wi-Fi hotspots. A parallel [House resolution](#) introduced in February seeks the same outcome. For nearly 30 years, the E-rate program has provided affordable telecommunications services to schools and libraries. In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, schools and districts requested \$27.5 million for hotspots—crucial tools for students without home internet access. The FCC expansion followed the expiration of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a pandemic-era program that allocated \$123 million for hotspot purchases. Republican lawmakers, led by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), argued that the FCC overstepped its legal authority, saying the expansion violates federal law, increases taxes, endangers online safety, and infringes on parental rights. Cruz introduced a resolution under the Congressional Review Act to nullify the regulation, asserting the government should not subsidize unsupervised access to harmful content. Education organizations quickly pushed back. In a [May 6 letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), groups representing superintendents, rural educators, and school business officials urged rejection of the resolution, citing nearly 20,000 schools and libraries applying for hundreds of thousands of hotspots. They emphasized that FCC rules require content filtering, making safety concerns unfounded. Hotspots, they noted, especially benefit low-income and rural students. Passage of the resolution would not only halt current support but permanently bar future FCC efforts to include hotspots in E-rate.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

In the week before last, the White House had education advocates reacting to the release of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 “skinny” budget request and its call for a 15% reduction in spending at the Department of Education, a 55% cut at the National Science Foundation, and other troubling proposals. Last week, the hundreds of advocates who were on Capitol Hill pleading for varied causes largely called for Congress to reject the direction the request would take federal investments. More details are expected on May 19th—like the names of the 18 K-12 education programs that would be folded into a \$2 billion block grant if President Trump's budget were adopted. While a statement of policy principals, budget proposals from Presidents of both parties are usually ignored by Congress, which ultimately holds the power of the purse.

In the meantime, the House continues to struggle with its pursuit of “one, big, beautiful bill” – a budget reconciliation package that would support President Trump's campaign promises. While the House Education and Workforce Committee this month marked up its legislation that would create \$333 billion in savings to the effort, three other committees whose proposals seemed to not have enough support among House Republicans postponed their planned markups, originally slated for last week, to this week. The House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture Committees will debate proposals addressing tax cuts, Medicaid, and SNAP programs. By week's end Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) was openly discussing developing a plan that will

not deliver tax cuts as large as originally envisioned. Developing the bill has clearly become the onerous and politically difficult task many predicted it would be months ago.

The Senate has not yet scheduled any committee reconciliation markups. It may end up moving a would-be House bill directly to the floor, substitute its visions for the package and then debate and amend it, bypassing Senate committees entirely. House leadership continues to say they'd like to see the House pass a bill in that chamber by the Memorial Day break—which is only two weeks away—and get that bill to the President's desk by the Fourth of July. Speaker Johnson will need to cajole his party's moderates and conservatives to meet this increasingly optimistic timeline.

Turning to FY 2026 appropriations, as advocates busily organize programmatic and project requests, the House Appropriations Committee has scheduled a number of hearings with cabinet leadership to discuss the White House's aspirations for agency budgets. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon hasn't been scheduled yet, but leadership for the Labor Department and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department will be before the panel this week. The Senate Appropriations Committee is doing the same, and HHS leadership will appear before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Education stakeholders are sounding the alarm over the White House's FY 2026 budget proposal, which calls for a 15% cut to the Department of Education and consolidation of 18 K–12 programs into a \$2 billion block grant. These changes could severely impact local districts, especially those relying on targeted federal support, and hundreds of education advocates are urging Congress to reject the plan. Reconciliation proposals that make deep cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will also likely harm districts and the students they serve.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

NEW AMERICA'S PAYA SHOWCASES VALUE OF YOUTH APPRENTICESHIPS

Last week, New America's Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA) hosted its annual Youth Apprenticeship Showcase in celebration of National Apprenticeship Day. The event, emceed by Ivy Sullivan of New America, featured several organizations doing impactful work to connect students with in-demand careers through youth apprenticeship programs. PAYA, a multi-year, collaborative initiative focused on workforce transitions and education policy, supports states and cities in expanding access to high-quality apprenticeship opportunities for high school students. The initiative works with a broad range of partners—including educational institutions, corporations, and nonprofits—recruiting them to serve as “intermediaries” between schools, students, and local industries. During the Showcase, organizations such as GPS Education Partners, Kalamazoo Public Schools, and Education Service Center Region 13 presented their apprenticeship programs and highlighted the benefits students have experienced. A common theme among presenters was the importance of supportive and well-aligned policy environments, as well as robust data tracking, in determining the success of apprenticeship programs for both students and sponsoring entities. In addition to the live presentations, all PAYA partners contributed to a research brief produced by the Education Strategy Group, which outlines best practices for recruiting young people into industry-aligned apprenticeship programs. A full recording of the Showcase is available here, and Ivy Sullivan (sullivan@newamerica.org) is currently seeking

new intermediaries for the Fall. Organizations interested in partnering with PAYA are encouraged to reach out.

HEAD START ADVOCATES CALL FOR PROTECTION AMID FEDERAL CUTS

On Monday, the Center for American Progress (CAP) hosted a panel discussion on the vital role of Head Start programs across the United States and the increasing challenges they face under the second Trump administration. CAP's Casey Peeks was joined by advocates from across the country, including Joel Ryan of the Washington State Association of Head Start; Lauri Morrison-Frichtl of the Illinois Head Start Association; Jen Bailey of Reach Dane; and Kerrie Breton of Educare Central Maine. Panelists emphasized that Head Start is more than an early childhood education program. They highlighted the comprehensive support it offers, such as healthcare screenings, nutritious meals, and family services, which collectively work to break the cycle of poverty. Breton underscored the importance of these services in rural areas, where alternatives are often limited or nonexistent. Speakers described the effects of recent program closures and funding disruptions, noting that when Head Start centers shut down, families lose access to reliable child care, making it difficult for parents to work and ultimately straining local economies. They expressed concern over what they characterized as an aggressive stance by the Trump administration, citing frozen federal funds, staff layoffs, and the closure of regional oversight offices as examples of destabilizing actions. Although reports suggest the administration may attempt to eliminate Head Start funding entirely, the panelists voiced hope in the face of bipartisan support and growing public opposition to such proposals. Ryan captured the urgency of the moment, stating, "It's unfortunate that Donald Trump has put a target on the backs of three- and four-year-olds." The discussion concluded with a call to action for policymakers and the public to unite in defending Head Start programs and the families and communities that depend on them. A recording of the event is [here](#).

ASTC HIGHLIGHTS PUBLIC SENTIMENT AROUND FEDERAL SCIENCE INVESTMENTS

On Tuesday, the Association of Science and Technical Centers (ASTC) hosted a webinar titled, "How U.S. Adults Perceive Science in This Moment." The event was led by ASTC's Eve Klein and Erica Palma Kimmerling, who shared findings from a recent nationwide survey conducted by Edge Research. The survey explored public attitudes toward scientific institutions and recent shifts in federal science policy. Klein and Kimmerling emphasized survey results that revealed a notable disconnect: while Americans recognize the importance of federal investments in science, many remain unclear about how those investments translate into tangible benefits in their daily lives. Notably, 89% of respondents indicated that federal support for STEM education is "important" or "very important" to the U.S. economy and long-term workforce development. However, 49% of those surveyed believe the private sector could adequately replace any reductions in federal investment—a viewpoint the presenters found troubling. ASTC, which supports science centers and museums focused on STEM learning, urged greater efforts to illustrate how public funding drives real-world scientific progress. Klein also noted that attitudes toward science and education are influenced by personal background and experience. For example, Baby Boomers (ages 61–79) were significantly more likely to support strong investment in science education, while individuals without a college degree expressed greater skepticism. Both presenters called for a renewed national vision for STEM education and encouraged science centers, educational institutions, and museums to act as vital platforms for demonstrating the value and impact of federal investment in science. A full recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

BPC HOSTS FORUM ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS

On Tuesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted an event focused on addressing the growing crisis in youth mental health and substance use. With rates of depression and anxiety continuing to rise among young people, BPC convened its Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force to develop evidence-based, pragmatic policy recommendations, outlined in a series of three reports. During the event, BPC task force members were joined by members of Congress, former governors, youth, and caregivers to explore bipartisan policy solutions. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN), Co-Founder of the Senate Bipartisan Mental Health Caucus, delivered opening remarks emphasizing the urgent need to address youth mental health challenges. Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC), also a Co-Founder of the caucus, shared his personal connection to mental health concerns and voiced support for the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*, underscoring the need for continued progress at the societal level. The first panel, moderated by BPC's Margaret Spellings, featured former Governor Steve Beshear (D-KY) and former Governor and member of Congress John Kasich (R-OH). They advocated for integrating behavioral and mental health services into primary care and schools, improving coordination of funding streams, enhancing online safety for youth, and investing in preventive care to yield long-term economic benefits. A second panel featured young people who shared personal experiences with the healthcare system and emphasized the importance of peer support, community-building, and a holistic approach to healing. The final panel included caregivers—both family members and medical professionals—who discussed strategies to integrate behavioral health into primary care and education, strengthen the mental healthcare workforce through financial incentives, and provide a more comprehensive continuum of care. Across all panels, participants highlighted the importance of reducing stigma, addressing social media's impact on mental health, and advancing policy solutions to meet the growing needs of youth across the country. A recording of the event is [here](#).

CHAIR WALBERG OUTLINES EDUCATION, WORKFORCE PRIORITIES AT AEI EVENT

On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted Congressman Tim Walberg (R-MI), Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, for a discussion on the future of federal education policy. Moderated by AEI senior fellow Beth Akers, the event focused on the evolving role of federal policy in shaping education outcomes and aligning them with labor market needs. Chairman Walberg emphasized his vision of integrating education and workforce development, noting the committee's renaming as symbolic of this shift. He outlined three core pillars—students, parents, and teachers—as central to successful reform. He advocated for increased school choice, competition, and reduced federal involvement, including block grants to states and potential downsizing of the U.S. Department of Education (ED). While not calling for a complete withdrawal of federal oversight, he supported moving certain responsibilities, such as special education, to other agencies like Health and Human Services. In higher education, Walberg echoed growing public skepticism, citing student debt burdens, limited job outcomes, and ideological concerns on campuses. He highlighted innovative partnerships between employers and institutions, like Google's collaboration with Adrian College, as models for workforce-aligned education. He defended recent Republican reconciliation proposals—including short-term Pell grants, risk-sharing provisions, and loan repayment reforms—as mechanisms to increase institutional accountability and affordability. The plan also caps Parent PLUS loans and simplifies repayment, aiming to alleviate psychological and financial burdens for borrowers. Walberg expressed confidence that these reforms would hold institutions accountable while improving outcomes. He also acknowledged bipartisan opportunities, particularly in reauthorizing the

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and improving credential transparency. He concluded by encouraging students to pursue pathways aligned with their values and career goals and called for measuring success by employment outcomes and return on educational investment. A recording of the event is [here](#).

ED ISSUES GUIDANCE ON UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION IMPLEMENTATION

On Wednesday, the Department of Education’s (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education [issued a letter](#) to all chief state school officers providing updated guidance on implementing the Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) under Section 8532 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This provision requires states receiving ESEA funds to offer students the option to transfer to a safe public school—including public charter schools—if they attend a school designated as “persistently dangerous” or are victims of a violent criminal offense on school grounds. The guidance outlines ways states can strengthen implementation of the provision, noting that despite over a million violent offenses reported through federal civil rights data in the 2021–2022 school year, very few schools were officially designated as persistently dangerous. ED encourages states to revisit and revise their criteria for identifying unsafe schools, suggesting that some current definitions may be too narrow to capture the full scope of school safety concerns. States are urged to consider reducing the time frame required to designate a school as persistently dangerous, incorporate incident-based data rather than solely disciplinary actions, and regularly update their definitions in consultation with school districts and community stakeholders. The letter also encourages expanding school choice options—including open enrollment and inter-district transfers—and improving communication with parents about available options and school safety designations. The letter emphasizes the importance of using multiple data sources, including law enforcement and juvenile justice referrals, and calls for technical assistance and training to improve local data collection. ED also recommends that states work collaboratively with districts to enhance safety in identified schools and connect families with appropriate resources. The full letter provides detailed guidance on how states can meet statutory requirements while ensuring that students have access to safe and supportive learning environments. ED’s announcement is [here](#), and the letter is [here](#).

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4. New Publications

When Micro Goes Macro: A Nationwide Review of States’ Educator Micro-Credential Policies

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This report discusses best practices in educator micro-credential policy design and implementation and recommends six actions for state education leaders to harness this promising tool.

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Brookings (May 2025)

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5. In the News

Bill Gates Announces Plan to Give ‘Virtually All’ His Money Away And End The Gates Foundation In 20 Years

CNN (May 8, 2025)

Community Impact Coalition Launches Campaign Encouraging Congress to Protect Nonprofit Organizations in 2025 Tax Reform

Community Impact Coalition (May 7, 2025)

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Is Long Overdue for Reform

The 74 (May 7, 2025)

Education Researchers Sue Trump Administration, Testing Executive Power

Hechinger Report (May 5, 2025)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Hearing: House Appropriations Subcommittee on FY26 HHS Budget

Subject: The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Budget Hearing - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

Witness: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Time: 9:30 a.m.

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

Hearing: House Education Subcommittee on Charter Schools

Subject: The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Reimagining Education: How Charter Schools Are Closing Gaps and Opening Doors.”

Time: 10:15 a.m.

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

Hearing: Senate HELP Committee on FY26 HHS Budget

Subject: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on the “FY2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget.”

Witness: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Time: 1:30 p.m.

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

Webinar: Ending the Department of Education as it Turns 45

Subject: The Cato Institute holds a forum on “Ending the U.S. Department of Education as It Turns 45.”

Participants: Linda McMahon, secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Hearing: House Appropriations Subcommittee on FY26 Labor Budget

Subject: The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on “Budget Hearing - U.S. Department of Labor.”

Witness: Lori Chavez -DeRemer, secretary, U.S. Department of Labor.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Webinar: The Threat Privatization Poses to Public Education

Subject: The Center for American Progress and the National Center for Learning Disabilities will hold a virtual discussion on “Who Pays for Choice? The Threat Privatization Poses to Public Education.” **Participants:** Doug Harris, national director, National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice; Jessica Levin, litigation director, Education Law Center; Steven Johnson, superintendent, Fort Ransom Public School District 6; Linh Dang, senior policy specialist, National Education Association; and Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO, National Center for Learning Disabilities.

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Webinar: Federal Government Shape School Curriculum?

Subject: The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion on “A Conversation on the Right: Should the Federal Government Shape School Curriculum?”

Participants: Roger Severino, vice president of domestic policy and fellow, Heritage Foundation; Robert Eitel, co-founder and president, Defense of Freedom Institute; and Sarah Parshall Perry, vice president and legal fellow, Defending Education.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Webinar: Why Did America Get Pandemic Schooling So Wrong?

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a virtual discussion on “Why Did America Get Pandemic Schooling So Wrong?”

Participants: Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies, AEI; Derrell Bradford, president, SOCAN; David Zweig, author, “An Abundance of Caution: American Schools, the Virus, and a Story of Bad Decisions;” and Emily Oster, CEO, ParentData.

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Register [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of nominees

House Floor:

[H.R. 2240](#) – Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act

(Sponsored by

Rep. Moore (NC) / Judiciary Committee)

[H.R. 2243](#) – LEOSA Reform Act *(Sponsored by Rep. Bacon / Judiciary Committee)*

[H.R. 2255](#) – Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act of 2025 *(Sponsored by Rep. Fry / Judiciary Committee)*

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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](#)

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10. About BPAG

Bose Public Affairs Group is a full-service government affairs and public relations consulting firm that has built a reputation for producing results. We partner with clients committed to excellence in education and other social services to achieve policy and advocacy success by:

- leveraging our expertise and passion;
- strategizing intelligent solutions; and,
- Creating meaningful impact.

Our team includes long-term insiders in education policy from Pre-K through higher education, innovative thinkers and savvy strategists that provide a comprehensive array of customized client services. We have the knowledge, skills, and relationships that are necessary for successful advocacy at all levels. From grassroots to grass tops and everything in between, our broad-based legislative practice approaches every project with the same degree of determination and professionalism. BPAG provides expertise in a variety of services:

- Government Relations
- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management

- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

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