



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations

Weekly Education Report

LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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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**

- **IDEA**

- The Office of Special Education Policy issued a letter to State Directors of Special Education that provides guidance on ensuring that highly mobile children with disabilities receive required special education services designed to meet their needs.

- **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment**

- **Higher Education-Based Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs**

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (December, 2022)

AACTE released a new analysis focusing on alternative preparation programs run by institutions of higher education (IHE-based alternative programs).

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **Global Scholars Discuss Educational Gaps, Sense of Belonging:** On Monday, December 5, The Brookings Institute hosted a webinar titled, “De/Reconstructing Education as a Space for Transformative Belonging and Agency.” Participants

considered the impacts that a lack of diversity and inclusion in schools could mean for underrepresented communities and students.

- **Rep. Foxx Receives Waiver Allowing Run for Ed and Labor Chair:** On Wednesday, December 7, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5) received a waiver that would place her in the running to chair the House Education and Labor Committee, but Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-7) said he will also seek chairmanship.
- **Ed Officially Launches Initiative to Enhance STEM Education:** On Wednesday, December 7, the Department of Education (ED) hosted the YOU Belong in STEM National Coordinating Conference in Washington, D.C. as part of the Biden-Harris Raise the Bar: STEM Excellence for All Students initiative designed to strengthen STEM education nationwide.

4. **New Publications**

- **Progress towards Pandemic Recovery: Continued Signs of Rebounding Achievement at the Start of the 2022-23 School Year**
Northwest Evaluation Association (December 2022)
NWEA's new report finds that students lost less ground over summer 2022 compared to pre-pandemic trends. NWEA found that academic rebounding in reading and math continued in fall 2022, however the improvements were not even across school years and summers and the youngest students in the sample had the largest reading achievement gap with the least rebounding. Even with continued rebounding, student achievement remains lower than in a typical year and full recovery is likely still several years away.
- **The Future of Education**
Google for Education (November, 2022)
Google for Education collaborated with research partner Canvas8 to conduct a study across 24 countries on the future of education. The result is a three-part global report highlighting insights from around the world.

5. **In the News**

- **Sinema Switches to Independent, Shaking Up The Senate**
Politico (December 9, 2022)
- **What Would Expanded Child Tax Credits Means for K-12**
K-12 Dive (December 8, 2022)
- **Ed Department Disbands National Parents and Families Engagement Council**
K-12 Dive (December 6, 2022)

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

- **White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence:** The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, will host a White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence.
Monday, December 12
- **Senate Commerce Committee on Solutions to Broadband Needs:** The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Communication,

Media, and Broadband will hold a hearing on “Ensuring Solutions to Meet America’s Broadband Needs.”

Tuesday, December 13

- **National Teacher and Principal Survey Results:** The National Center for Education Statistics will host a public briefing that will show the newest National Teacher and Principal Survey data that was collected during the 2020-21 school year amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Supporting Social-Emotional Health for Students and Staff:** All4Ed will host a webinar on “Supporting Social-Emotional Health for Students and Staff.”
- **Conflicts between Parents and Schools:** The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion on "Parental Rights and Religious Liberty: Examining New Conflicts between Parents and the State."

Wednesday, December 14

- **Creating a Vision for the Future:** All4Ed will host a webinar on how schools and districts can use their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds through 2026 to create equitable learning environments in a sustained way.

Thursday, December 15

- **Solving the Teacher Shortage Crisis:** FutureEd will host a webinar to explore more effective strategies for attracting and retaining teachers in the months and years ahead.

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- None

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

- **Consideration of judicial nominations**
- **S. H.R. 3648 – EAGLE Act of 2022**
- **S. 3905 – Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act**
- **S. 4003 – Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022**
- **Possible Consideration of H.R. 1948 – VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021**
- **Consideration of Legislation Providing Further Funding for FY23**

9. **Bills to Watch**

- **H.R. 7309:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022

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

11. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

Announced in their December newsletter published last week, the Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) issued a **letter** to State Directors of Special Education that provides guidance and resources and describes several important principles that

States, school districts, school staff, parents, families, and others may find helpful in ensuring that highly mobile children with disabilities receive required special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs in a timely manner.

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

Higher Education-Based Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (December, 2022)

The AACTE released a new analysis focusing on alternative preparation programs run by institutions of higher education (IHE-based alternative programs). The study shows that IHE-based alternative teacher preparation programs are bringing more educators to the strained workforce than alternative programs run by organizations other than colleges and universities. The data reveals that university-based alternative teacher preparation programs more effectively address the educator shortage.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

It was difficult to keep track of all of the rumors and various scenarios that surrounded strategies for resolving Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 spending last week. Throughout last week, appropriators still had not reached consensus on a non-defense topline number or on the allocations for defense and non-defense spending. Senate Democrats had planned to offer their own version of an omnibus spending package to cover every agency for the remainder of FY 2023 today, but Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced that Democrats would not proceed with introducing their own bill for the time being, as both parties had apparently made sufficient progress in negotiations over the weekend. If negotiations stall once again, and Democrats decide to release their own omnibus bill, and Republicans reject that plan, Democrats could put forward a full-year continuing resolution (CR) that would reportedly contain the earmarks secured in earlier versions of the FY 2023 spending bills. Even so, that would be considered a loss for defense spending and problematic for non-defense investments, including education.

Chairman Leahy only has a few more weeks left on Capitol Hill, but he is making his feelings about his last round of appropriations negotiations known. He **warned colleagues of the adverse effects of a year-long CR** and took to the Senate floor on Thursday, saying, in part:

“For months, Democrats have asked our Republican colleagues to join us at the negotiating table. For months we have been met with silence. At this very moment, my door and the doors of my staff are open to join us in our work at any time. But time is running out, and we must move forward. On Monday, Chair DeLauro and I will introduce an omnibus bill that we believe is fair and bipartisan. It will fully fund defense at the NDAA level and provide the needed increase to non-defense programs to stave off inflation and serve the American people. In an effort to reach bipartisan agreement, we eliminated the so-called poison pill riders that Republicans have objected too. We firmly believe that this bill can and should earn the votes of at least 10

Republican Senators. As the clock ticks toward December 16, this is a reasonable path forward, and I suggest my Republican friends take it.”

The CR keeping the government running expires Friday so this week will be pivotal in the resolution of FY 2023 spending. Even if appropriators reach a deal this week, it is very likely they will need a short-term CR to complete the process.

While the spending process moves in fits and starts, the House did pass the other “must-pass” bill that was on the Congressional to-do list. By a vote of 350 to 80, the House passed the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on Thursday. The \$858 billion NDAA amounts to an 8% increase over FY 2022 defense levels and is \$45 billion more than the Administration requested in its budget proposal last spring. The Senate is expected to pass the bill and send it to President Biden for his signature next week.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

As highlighted above, passage of a government spending bill before the end of the year is running into several hurdles, although it looks like Democrats and Republicans were able to reach some consensus over the weekend. If an omnibus package is indeed passed in December, Education Department funding could increase significantly for FY 2023. If negotiations stall once again, Democrats will likely release their own omnibus package, but if Republicans reject that plan, then Democrats could put forward a full year continuing resolution, which would fund the government at FY 2022 levels for the remainder of FY 2023. That would be considered problematic for education investments.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

GLOBAL SCHOLARS DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL GAPS, SENSE OF BELONGING

On Monday, December 5, The Brookings Institute hosted a webinar titled, “De/Reconstructing Education as a Space for Transformative Belonging and Agency.” The event featured Jennifer O’Donoghue, deputy director of Center for Universal Education; and 2022 Echidna Global Scholars Halimatou Hima, Anthony Luvanda and Bhawana Shrestha. Hima began the event by explaining how education is “consistently cited as a top priority for forcibly displaced communities, but many children are constrained in its pursuit.” She continued by describing the types of challenges and conditions that inherently create a gap between educational aspirations, expectations, and current realities. Hima suggested that increased inclusion of displaced children often begins with teachers, and that providing monetary incentives for teachers in crisis settings - in addition to training - can facilitate teacher retention and academic improvement in children. Luvanda followed, noting the lack of girls and young women in Information Technology and Cybersecurity (ITC) careers. “[Educational systems] need to create a sense of belonging within the schooling environment... but also belonging [within] ITC careers,” Luvanda stated. He continued, “We need to make [women] feel that they belong within the digital technology ecosystem.” Luvanda suggested the significance of role models and creating sustainable support systems so that young girls can envision themselves in these roles. In a similar vein, Shrestha recommended that education researchers, development practitioners, and policymakers reconstruct their own thought processes; question whose interests and ideologies are represented in the educational systems of today; and consider the groups that are excluded in the process. She

also suggested that educational institutions coordinate with welfare-based organizations to intervene in structural issues like poverty. Shrestha also argued that access without barriers to healthy and diverse schools with basic educational resources is essential to social and emotional learning (SEL). Lastly, Shrestha addressed the important role teachers play in a thriving learning community, saying, “We need to promote transformative SEL, and the knowledge, skills and beliefs of female teachers by bringing multiple stakeholders together.” An archived recording of the event can be found [here](#).

REP. FOXX RECEIVES WAIVER ALLOWING RUN FOR ED AND LABOR CHAIR

On Wednesday, December 7, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5) [received](#) a waiver that would place her in the running to chair the House Education and Labor Committee, but Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-7) [said](#) he will also seek the chairmanship. The waiver that Foxx received circumvented term-limit rules that would have prohibited her from serving more than three consecutive terms as a ranking member or chair of a committee. Foxx has served as the top Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee since she took over as chair in 2017, which was then named the Education and the Workforce Committee. Foxx has promised to return the committee to that name. As for Walberg, he has served on the panel for the past 14 years. Either Foxx or Walberg would increase oversight of the federal agencies in the Committee’s purview. “We will amplify the voices of job creators and workers, not the radical demands of union bosses,” said Congresswoman Foxx. “The Committee will no longer be a lackey for Big Labor.” The Committee will likely host hearings on the Biden Administration’s student loan forgiveness plan, parental rights in education and other issues that have featured prominently in the mid-term elections. The House Steering Committee is expected to make official announcements on committee chairs in the next few weeks

ED OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE STEM EDUCATION

On Wednesday, December 7, the Department of Education (ED) hosted the YOU Belong in STEM National Coordinating Conference in Washington, D.C. as part of the Biden-Harris [Raise the Bar: STEM Excellence for All Students initiative](#) designed to strengthen STEM education nationwide. “This new initiative will help implement and scale equitable, high-quality STEM education for all students from Pre-K to higher education—regardless of background—to ensure their 21st century career readiness and global competitiveness,” according to the ED’s [press release](#). The initiative is supported by \$120 billion in American Rescue Plan dollars dedicated to K-12 education. “Research shows how a sense of belonging in rich and rigorous classrooms is directly correlated to students’ long-term academic success,” said Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten. “Moreover, the Department’s Civil Rights Data Collection continues to demonstrate that students of color and students with disabilities are disproportionately excluded from learning opportunities in STEM,” she continued. In support of this initiative, the ED published a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) to state and district leaders outlining how federal education funds can be used to enhance STEM teaching and learning. The ED also announced a partnership with [Beyond100K](#) to identify the challenges to staffing schools with STEM teachers who reflect the diversity of their students and promote belonging in classrooms. More details on this initiative can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Progress towards Pandemic Recovery: Continued Signs of Rebounding Achievement at the Start of the 2022-23 School Year

Northwest Evaluation Association – Center for School and Student Progress (December, 2022)

NWEA's new report finds that students lost less ground over summer 2022 compared to pre-pandemic trends. NWEA found that academic rebounding in reading and math continued in fall 2022, however the improvements were not even across school years and summers and the youngest students in the sample had the largest reading achievement gap with the least rebounding. Even with continued rebounding, student achievement remains lower than in a typical year and full recovery is likely still several years away.

The Future of Education

Google for Education (November, 2022)

Google for Education collaborated with research partner Canvas8 to conduct a study across 24 countries on the future of education. The result is a three-part global report highlighting insights from around the world.

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5. In the News

Sinema Switches to Independent, Shaking Up the Senate

Politico (December 9, 2022)

What Would Expanded Child Tax Credits Mean for K-12

K-12 Dive (December 8, 2022)

Ed Department Disbands National Parents and Families Engagement Council

K-12 Dive (December 6, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Key: E&S – Elementary & Secondary; H – Higher Education; D – Disability Policy

Monday, December 12, 2022

Agency Event: White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence (E&S, H)

Subject: The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, will host a White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence.

Participants: Arati Prabhakar, chief advisor to the president for science and technology and director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX); Brian Deese, director, National Economic Council; John Podesta, senior advisor to the president for clean energy innovation; Alondra Nelson, deputy assistant to the president and principal deputy

director for science and society, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Cindy Marten, deputy secretary, US Department of Education; Sethuraman Panchanathan, director, National Science Foundation; Sam Gill, president and CEO, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; and Sudip S. Parikh, CEO, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Time/Location: 10:00 AM ET

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

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Hearing: Senate Commerce Committee on Solutions to Broadband Needs (E&S, H)

Subject: The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Communication, Media, and Broadband will hold a hearing on “Ensuring Solutions to Meet America’s Broadband Needs.”

Witnesses: Kimball Sekaquaptewa, chair, Connect New Mexico Council, and chief technology director, Santa Fe Indian School; Michael Powell, president and CEO, NCTA – The Internet & Television Association; Jonathan Spalter, president and CEO, USTelecom; and Angela Siefer, executive director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Time/Location: 10:00 AM ET

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

Webinar: National Teacher and Principal Survey Results (E&S)

Subject: The National Center for Education Statistics will hosts a public briefing that will show the newest National Teacher and Principal Survey data that was collected during the 2020-21 school year amid the coronavirus pandemic

Time/Location: 11:00 AM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Supporting Social-Emotional Health for Students and Staff (E&S)

Subject: All4Ed will host a webinar on “Supporting Social-Emotional Health for Students and Staff.”

Participants: Thomas C. Murray, Director of Innovation, Future Ready Schools (DC); Mary Gilbert, K-5 principal, Tullahoma City Schools (TN)

Time/Location: 2 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Webinar: Conflicts between Parents and Schools (E&S)

Subject: The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion on "Parental Rights and Religious Liberty: Examining New Conflicts between Parents and the State."

Participants: James Dwyer, law professor, William and Mary Law School; Ryan Bangert, senior vice president for strategic initiatives and special counsel to the president, Alliance for Defending Freedom; and Richard Garnett, law professor and director, University of Notre Dame Law School's Program on Church, State and Society

Time/Location: 1 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Webinar: Creating a Vision for the Future (E&S)

Subject: All4Ed will host a webinar on how schools and districts can use their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds through 2026 to create equitable learning environments in a sustained way

Participants: Carl Hooker, faculty and author, Future Ready Schools (Moderator); Katie Lash, executive director, East Central Education Center, IN; Adam Phyll, director of professional learning and leadership, Future Ready Schools; Sandra Paul, director of information technology, Township of Union Public Schools (NJ)

Time/Location: 2 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Solving the Teacher Shortage Crisis (E&S, H)

Subject: FutureEd will host a webinar to explore more effective strategies for attracting and retaining teachers in the months and years ahead.

Participants: Tequilla Brownie, chief executive officer, TNTP; Dan Goldhaber, director, Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research; Tara Kini, chief of staff and director of state policy, Learning Policy Institute; Heather Peske, president, National Council on Teacher Quality; and Rob Weil, director of research, policy, and field programs, American Federation of Teachers.

Time/Location: 2 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

None.

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of judicial nominations

House Floor:

H.R. 3648 – EAGLE Act of 2022

S. 3905 – Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act

S. 4003 – Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022

Possible Consideration of H.R. 1948 – VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021

Consideration of Legislation Providing Further Funding for FY23

9. Bills to Watch

Authorization Bills

H.R. 7309 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022
Sponsor: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)

(5/17/22 Passed by House; 4/5/22 Passed by House Ed and Labor Committee;
3/31/22 Introduced in House)

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

[U.S. House and Senate 2022 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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11. 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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