



The Consortium of State School Boards Association
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**
 - **Child Nutrition**
 - **Healthy School Meals Should Be Available To All U.S. Students – Permanently** *The Hill* (September 7, 2022)
Roy Steiner, senior vice president of Food Initiatives at The Rockefeller Foundation, discusses the extension of the USDA’s pandemic-era free meal waivers and implores Congress to stop passing months-long extensions and make healthy school meals available to all students permanently.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Cardona Announces Road To Success Back To School Bus Tour**: Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona is launching the **Road to Success Back to School Bus Tour** alongside First Lady Jill Biden and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff. The week-long, multi-state road trip will showcase the many ways school communities are helping students recover and thrive.
4. **New Publications**
 - **Dreaming Into Learning Futures**

KnowledgeWorks (August 26, 2022)

This publication explores where learning in the United States might be headed over the next 10 years.

- **Investments in K-12 Infrastructure Would Benefits Students Across the Country**

Center for American Progress (September 8, 2022)

This report explores how new and expanded federal funding for school infrastructure would meaningfully benefit both students' physical health and academic success.

5. **In the News**

- **At Head Start, Masks Remain On, Despite CDC Guidelines**
The New York Times (September 7, 2022)
- **'Back To School' Is Also 'Back To Cyberattacks' For Some Districts**
The Washington Post (September 7, 2022)
- **Gallup: U.S. Education System Hits Second Lowest Approval All-Time**
Washington Times (September 6, 2022)
- **Cardona's Title IX Rule Draws More Than 349K Comments**
Politico (September 6, 2022)

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

- **Markup: House Judiciary Committee** (Wednesday, September 14, 2022)
The House Judiciary Committee will **hold a markup** of H.Res. 1238, of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff"; and H.Res. 1239, of inquiry directing the Attorney General to provide certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff."
- **Hearing: House Small Business Subcommittee** (Thursday, September 15, 2022)
The House Small Business Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Back to School, Back to Startups: Supporting Youth Apprenticeship, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development."
- **Webinar: Reimagining STEM Education: The Pathway to Convergence Education** (Friday, September 16, 2022)
The U.S. Department of Education will host a webinar to examine convergence education, a pedagogical style that promotes scientific and systems thinking, student engagement, and innovative solution-creating and how you can implement it in educational settings.

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
 - **H.R. 2988:** Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act of 2021
 - **H.R. 8326:** Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act
 - **H.R. 302:** Preventing a Patronage System Act of 2021
 - **Possible Consideration of Legislation Making Further Appropriations 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

CHILD NUTRITION

Healthy School Meals Should Be Available To All U.S. Students –Permanently

The Hill (September 7, 2022)

Roy Steiner, senior vice president of Food Initiatives at The Rockefeller Foundation, discusses the extension of the USDA’s pandemic-era free meal waivers and implores Congress to stop passing months-long extensions and make healthy school meals available to all students permanently. “Federal leaders should be following the example set by California, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada and Vermont in adopting policies that deliver healthy school meals not only to the relief of students and their families, but to school districts and other community programs which are often tasked with helping to catch those students who fall through the cracks after not qualifying for reduced meals, but who continue to arrive at and depart from school hungry,” Steiner writes.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Congress slowly resumed their Washington work this past week with the Senate returning and the House enjoying an extended recess for one more week. Their return was on the heels of an August that saw the passage of the **Inflation Reduction Act** and President Joe Biden announcing the cancellation/forgiveness of up to \$10,000 for federal student loan borrowers with incomes less than \$125,000 or from households with less than \$250,000, with an additional \$10,000 (total of up to \$20,000) for Pell Grant recipients. The President also continued the moratorium on payments for federal student loans and interest accrual until the end of the year.

The cancellation/forgiveness action has resulted in mixed reactions among Democrats and strong opposition from Republicans. Coupled with passage and subsequent signing into law of the Inflation Reduction Act, passed using the budget reconciliation process, the fall is going to bring

more partisanship as we approach the mid-term elections. However, as we move into September, Congress is also faced with the looming September 30th end of the federal fiscal year.

Discussion on a continuing resolution (CR) began shortly after Congress adjourned for recess with a target funding date of mid-December. A CR is a temporary funding measure that Congress will use to fund the federal government for a limited amount of time if Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations are not passed before the FY 2022 ends on September 30. As leaders in both Chambers continue to discuss the CR, various dynamics are emerging that may not lead to a quick and easy process. The White House has submitted a request for an additional \$47 billion to provide more assistance in Ukraine, for COVID-19 and monkeypox needs, and help with various natural disasters. During negotiations on the Inflation Reduction Act, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) secured a commitment to reduce the time on domestic energy permit efforts, which Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has indicated he will attach to the CR. Republicans are bristling at providing additional COVID-19 funding, as they feel there are still sufficient unspent funds available. Progressive Democrats have signaled they will not vote for the CR if the permitting provision is included. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) publicly announced his intention not to vote, which was followed a day later with a letter by 72 House Democrats stating the same. Resolving these issues will take up most of the air in Washington for the remainder of the month.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

President Biden's federal loan forgiveness announcement included a proposal for long-term changes to the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF) program that will make it easier for borrowers working in public service to gain loan forgiveness. Changes to the PSLF program might benefit K-12 educators that borrowed to fund their university-based training.

Finally, the 2023 appropriations process, including the eventual CR, will ultimately determine how much money is allocated for the Department of Education and the programs that provide critical support at the district and school level. If a CR is passed through mid-December, the Department of Education will be funded at 2022 levels until 2023 spending bills are passed.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

CARDONA ANNOUNCES ROAD TO SUCCESS BACK TO SCHOOL BUS TOUR

On Monday, Sept. 12, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona will launch the [Road to Success Back to School Bus Tour](#) alongside First Lady Jill Biden and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff. The week-long, multi-state road trip will showcase the many ways school communities are helping students recover and thrive. First Lady Biden and Secretary Cardona will kick-off the tour in Tennessee with a visit highlighting ways states and districts are recruiting and preparing qualified educators into the classroom. Later in the week, Second Gentleman Emhoff will join Secretary Cardona in Pennsylvania with visits that highlight how community schools are helping students recover academically and get the mental health supports they need, celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, and raise awareness about the Administration's actions to provide debt relief to millions, including teachers and administrators through Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The

Road to Success Bus Tour will feature stops in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

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4. New Publications

Dreaming Into Learning Futures

KnowledgeWorks (August, 2022)

This publication explores where learning in the United States might be headed over the next 10 years.

Federal Investments in K-12 Infrastructure Would Benefit Students across the Country

Center for American Progress (September, 2022)

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5. In the News

At Head Start, Masks Remain On, Despite CDC Guidelines

The New York Times (September 7, 2022)

'Back To School' Is Also 'Back To Cyberattacks' For Some Districts

The Washington Post (September 7, 2022)

Gallup: U.S. Education System Hits 2nd Lowest Approval All-Time

Washington Times (September 6, 2022)

Cardona's Title IX Rule Draws More Than 349K Comments

Politico (September 6, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Markup: House Judiciary Committee

Subject: The House Judiciary Committee will **hold a markup** of H.Res. 1238, of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff"; and H.Res. 1239, of inquiry directing the Attorney General to provide certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General

entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff."

Time: 10 AM

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

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Hearing: House Small Business Subcommittee

Subject: The House Small Business Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Back to School, Back to Startups: Supporting Youth Apprenticeship, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development."

Participants: Noel Ginsburg, founder and CEO, CareerWise; Shani Watkins, director, West Sound Technical Skills Center, Bremerton School District, WA; and Deborah Kobes, senior director, Jobs for the Future.

Time: 10 AM

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

Friday, September 16, 2022

Webinar: Reimagining STEM Education: The Pathway to Convergence Education

Subject: The U.S. Department of Education will host a webinar to examine convergence education, a pedagogical style that promotes scientific and systems thinking, student engagement, and innovative solution-creating and how you can implement it in educational settings.

Participants: Patti Curtis, STEM education fellow, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education (Moderator); Kelly Jo Day, STEM specialist, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy; Trey Smith, Chester Arthur School, PA; Laura Akesson, Einstein fellow, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy; Carol O'Donnell, executive director, Smithsonian Science Education Center; and Jorge Valdes, education advisor, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Time: 3:30 PM

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of nominees

House Floor:

[H.R. 2988](#) – Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act of 2021

[H.R. 8326](#) – Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act

[H.R. 302](#) – Preventing a Patronage System Act of 2021

Possible Consideration of Legislation Making Further Appropriations for FY23

9. Bills to Watch

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

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- 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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