



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**

• **ED Releases Memo on IDEA Part B, Special ED Teacher Prep,**

Training: The Department of Education's (ED) Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) published a **memorandum** affirming that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes the provision of special education and related services that meet the requirements of IDEA Part B, which includes ensuring that special education teachers and related services providers are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained.

• **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment**

• **Grow Your Own Educators: A Toolkit for Program Design and Development**

New America (September 29, 2022)

Grow Your Own (GYO) educator programs are an increasingly popular strategy to address local gaps in the teacher workforce. New America recently released a GYO Toolkit, which is a collection of practice-oriented resources that offer guidance on key aspects of high quality GYO program

development and implementation, including partnerships, candidate recruitment and retention, mentoring, funding, and advocacy.

- **Funding**

- **ED Awards Over \$116M for Student Equity, Accessibility Programs:**

- The Department of Education (ED) **announced** 19 Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) awards totaling \$110 million and four new grant awards for the 2022 Equity Assistance Center (EAC) program totaling more than \$6.5 million.

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **OECD Holds Discussion on its 2022 Education At A Glance Report:** The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and The National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) held a webinar titled, “OECD Education at a Glance 2022: Implications for the U.S.”

- **Brookings Examines 2022 American Family Survey Results on Education:** The Brookings Center on Children and Families, Deseret News, and Brigham Young University hosted an event to dive into the results of Deseret News’ 8th Annual American Family Survey, a nationwide poll that portrays how families are experiencing and viewing prominent issues, including education.

- **ED Hosts Webinar on How States, Districts Can Promote Mental Health:** The Department of Education (ED) hosted a webinar titled, “How States and Districts Can Promote Mental Health.”

- **EPI Reviews Parent, Educator Perspectives on Student Success:** The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) held a webinar titled, “What Matters Most for Students Success from Parents’ and Educators’ Perspective.”

4. **New Publications**

- **Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness: District Approaches to Supports and Funding**

Learning Policy Institute (October 3, 2022)

This study examines how five school districts work to serve students experiencing homelessness. The report draws on interview data with homeless program staff, including coordinators, liaisons, and social workers, and budget data to describe how the districts identify and address the needs of students experiencing homelessness, how districts fund and staff their programs, and the challenges that districts confront in meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

5. **In the News**

- **Could Tutoring Be the Best Tool for Fighting Learning Loss?**

Bloomberg Government (October 6, 2022)

- **Senators Call for Stronger Rules to Reduce Off-the-Books Suspensions**

The Hechinger Report (October 5, 2022)

- **America’s Education Report Card Shows We’re Failing Our Most Vulnerable Students**
The Hill (October 4, 2022)
 - **Young and Homeless in Rural America**
The New York Times (September 29, 2022)
6. **Weekly Calendar - What’s coming up this week?**
- **Event: Principals Month Policy Briefing:** The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) will hold an event to discuss the current state of K-12 education, enacting solutions to address growing educator shortages and the professional teacher and school leader pipeline, improving mental health support for students and educators, and more. The discussion will be followed by a networking luncheon.
Wednesday, October 12
 - **Webinar: Congressional Briefing on Educator Diversity:** Latinos for Education will host a briefing to examine educator diversity.
Wednesday, October 12
7. **Future Hearings & Events**
- **Webinar: Maintaining Healthy Schools:** AASA, the School Superintendents Association, will host a webinar to discuss how district leaders in partnership with healthcare providers, parents, and other key stakeholders can prioritize the development of systems, policies, practices, and facilities that promote health, safety, and equity to ensure student success in both health and learning.
Thursday, October 20, 2022
8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
- *The House and Senate are in recess through the November election.*
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)

ED RELEASES MEMO ON IDEA PART B, SPECIAL ED TEACHER PREP, TRAINING

On Tuesday, October 4, the Department of Education’s (ED) Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) published a **memorandum** affirming that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes the provision of special education and related services that meet the requirements of IDEA Part B, which includes ensuring that special education teachers and related services providers are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained. The memo is intended to clarify States’ obligations regarding the IDEA Part B requirements related to

personnel qualifications and alternate certifications. In addition to outlining the requirements under IDEA Part B, this memo also highlights information and resources that may help States meet the requirements and underscores ED's support for teacher initiatives.

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

Grow Your Own Educators: A Toolkit for Program Design and Development

New America (September 29, 2022)

Grow Your Own (GYO) educator programs are an increasingly popular strategy to address local gaps in the teacher workforce. New America recently released a GYO Toolkit, which is a collection of practice-oriented resources that offer guidance on key aspects of high quality GYO program development and implementation, including partnerships, candidate recruitment and retention, mentoring, funding, and advocacy.

FUNDING

ED AWARDS OVER \$116M FOR STUDENT EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAMS

On Wednesday, October 5, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** 19 Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) awards totaling \$110 million and four new grant awards for the 2022 Equity Assistance Center (EAC) program totaling more than \$6.5 million. The MSAP awards support efforts to develop and revitalize magnet schools with academically challenging and innovative instructional approaches designed to bring students together from different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. The EAC awards fund four new regional EACs that each provide technical assistance to public schools and other agencies focused on addressing equity in their community for students and the educators who support them related to race, sex, national origin, gender identity, disability, and religion. "Today, we're investing in schools and communities that have shown a commitment to intentionally serving students and closing opportunity gaps based on race, place, and circumstance in America," said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. He continued, "Every child has something to offer this country, and they deserve access to effective educators, inclusive and supportive learning environments, and innovative, engaging programs that unlock their potential and lead to success." A full list of awards can be found **here**.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Congress is in recess until after the elections, which means that very little is happening on Capitol Hill. The common wisdom among most in Washington regarding the November elections is that the House will switch to a Republican majority next year, and the Senate will remain in Democratic control. Regarding the Senate, there are two wrinkles. The first is the suggestion that Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) might switch parties if it was in her best interest next year. The second is the announcement from Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE) that he is likely leaving the Senate at year's end to become president of the University of Florida. For a 50-50 chamber, both prospects provoke anxiety.

While members are at home and on the campaign trail, staff are still hard at work. They are preparing for the **lame-duck session**, which will see debate and passage of two large legislative initiatives—the National Defense Authorization Act and the Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus spending

bill. In addition, various interests are hoping for the passage of non-controversial bills before year's end.

October will be full of campaign ads, last minute surprises, and pumpkin spice lattes. All have their fans and their detractors.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The outcome of the November elections will ultimately determine the policy and fiscal agenda for Congress beginning in 2023 and could determine what is likely to pass in the lame duck session later this year. That could have significant impact on FY 23 funding decisions as well. If the House switches to Republican leadership, and an omnibus spending package is pushed into the New Year, it is possible Republicans could cut domestic spending, including federal funding for schools and education programs.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

OECD HOLDS DISCUSSION ON ITS 2022 EDUCATION AT A GLANCE REPORT

On Monday, October 3, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and The National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) held a webinar titled, “OECD Education at a Glance 2022: Implications for the U.S.” The event featured Dr. Vicki Phillips, NCEE CEO; Andreas Schleicher, special advisor on education policy to the Secretary-General for the OECD; Amy Loyd, U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary; Dr. Aaron Thompson, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Dr. Tom Stritikus, president of Fort Lewis College; and Dr. Anne Kress, president of Northern Virginia Community College. The panel took an in-depth look at OECD’s [2022 Education at a Glance report](#). Schleicher introduced global research on K-12 and post-secondary education outlined in the report and narrowed in on data from America, including pandemic effects on teacher and student mental health and learning loss; the societal benefits of “tertiary” education; the share of women among academic staff; and increases in the attainment of Ph.D. or doctoral degrees. Where the United States lags, Schleicher explained, is in education expenditures for teacher compensation; affordability of postsecondary education; and tertiary education attainment among U.S. citizens. Loyd suggested leveraging the pandemic’s disruption by “not [going] back to the normal that was three years ago, [which] was not working for many students.” Loyd also voiced the need for secondary education career exposure, college credit, and industry certifications. Dr. Thompson stressed the importance of tertiary institutions focusing on job criteria to better prepare students for the workplace. Kress stated that America needs to do more in recognizing short term credentials and claimed that technical and community colleges are a “powerful pathway that will connect [students] to employment.” Kress also discussed the affordability of tertiary institutions and the need for more partnerships in community colleges and universities, and college and workforce opportunities. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

BROOKINGS EXAMINES 2022 AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS ON EDUCATION

On Tuesday, October 4, the Brookings Center on Children and Families, Deseret News, and Brigham Young University hosted an event to dive into the results of Deseret News’ 8th Annual [American Family Survey](#), a nationwide poll that portrays how families are experiencing and viewing prominent issues, including education. The event featured Richard Reeves, senior fellow

for economic studies and director of the Future of the Middle Class Initiative at Brookings; Christopher Karpowitz, director of the Center for Study of elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University; Jeremy Pope, co-director of the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy; Elaine Kamarck, founding director of the Center for Effective Public Management; and Brad Wilcox, associate professor of sociology for the University of Virginia. Karpowitz and Pope reviewed the survey's key findings, including issues on public schools. The survey found, Karpowitz and Pope explained, that Americans support diverse perspectives in school libraries and do not support banning books. "These patterns generally hold across gender, age and income categories, but education, party and ideology make a difference in how strongly Americans are committed to libraries acquiring books with a variety of different perspectives," the report says. As for issues on teaching and parental choice in public schools, Americans are more likely (51 percent) to say parents should have the final say over teaching about controversial issues, Karpowitz explained. "Education is very local," Kamarck later stated when speaking in depth about parental control. "So when parents get excited about something, pro or con, they are a big force to be dealt with locally, because it's easy for them to assess local situations," she said. The report also touched on school safety issues, finding that a majority of Americans favor strong safety measures in schools and almost half of parents say their children have expressed concern about school shootings. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

ED HOSTS WEBINAR ON HOW STATES, DISTRICTS CAN PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

On Tuesday October 4, the Department of Education (ED) hosted a webinar titled, "How States and Districts Can Promote Mental Health." The event featured Barb Solish, director of youth and young adult initiatives at the National Alliance on Mental Illness; Elizabeth Suddath, assistant deputy superintendent of student support at the Oklahoma Department of Education; Amie Cumming, grant manager for Georgia's Department of Education; and Renee Bradely, deputy director of the Office of Special Education Programs for the U.S. Department of Education. Solish kicked off the webinar by addressing the latest data on teen mental health, reporting that "one in three high school students experienced poor mental health in 2020." Solish provided solutions, which included mental health education in the classroom, school-based and school-linked mental health care, removing barriers and stigma surrounding mental health, and having schools connect families to extensive services in the community. Suddoth discussed the approach to mental health issues in schools through a student support comprehensive model that addresses students' needs in a trauma-informed approach and through a comprehensive multi-tiered system of support. This includes statewide training, technical assistance and digital resources, student support plans, and quarterly coaching for all school personnel. Suddoth noted that the Oklahoma Department of Education funded these school programs through the School Climate Transformation Grant (SCTG) and saw a "60% overall reduction in office discipline referrals [and] a 31% overall reduction in out of school suspensions for all SCTG schools." Cumming referenced the Mental Health First Aid course, which teaches educators how to identify and respond to signs of mental health challenges. Cumming stated that Georgia's Department of Education is focused on building capacity and sustainability by adding 16 new trainers across the state, providing training materials, and supplying funds to allow teachers to participate in training during the school day. Bradley highlighted the importance of enhancing mental health literacy in educators and claimed that behavioral skills along with academic proficiency "allows students to make the most out of their potential and future opportunities." Furthermore, Bradley recommended K-12 institutions prioritize wellness for students, educators and providers,

implement evidence-based prevention practices, and establish an integrated framework of educational, social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health support for all.

EPI REVIEWS PARENT, EDUCATOR PERSPECTIVES ON STUDENT SUCCESS

On Thursday, October 6, The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) held a webinar titled, “What Matters Most for Students Success from Parents’ and Educators’ Perspective.” The webinar featured Heidi Shierholz, president of the Economic Policy Institute; Becky Pringle, president of the National Education Association (NEA); Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT); and Alien Arreaza, co-director of ParentsTogether. Shierholz opened the event by highlighting that teacher shortages were a prominent issue before the pandemic, and the pandemic only exacerbated the problem. Shierholz explained that educators earn 23.5 percent less than comparable college graduates, and low wages and poor working conditions contribute to an unfilled labor market. Pringle discussed the decline of students entering the teaching profession because there is a lack of competitive pay and benefits. Pringle also noted the importance of listening to the needs of educators by recognizing their collective autonomy and professional authority in issues that directly affect them. Weingarten addressed the need for more investments in schools as they recover from the pandemic, specifically focusing on creating equity and normalcy for children and families to thrive. Weingarten also explained AFT’s goal to “restore hope and rebuild relationships” between parents and teachers. “Post-COVID schools need to be foundational to the community and be the steppingstone of accelerated learning,” she stated. Arreaza expanded on the teacher-parent relationship, explaining that the notion of educators harming children through progressive learning is unfounded. Arreaza also discussed how ParentsTogether is building teacher-parent relationships through a partnership with the AFT to change Instagram's bullying policies, which are damaging children’s mental wellbeing in and out of school. Following these remarks, the panel reviewed the parent-teacher dynamic seen during recent school board meetings, the role of unions in supporting educators, and the changes that need to be made to make schools safer and more equitable. An archived recording of the event can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness: District Approaches to Supports and Funding

Learning Policy Institute (October 3, 2022)

This study examines how five school districts work to serve students experiencing homelessness. The report draws on interview data with homeless program staff, including coordinators, liaisons, and social workers, and budget data to describe how the districts identify and address the needs of students experiencing homelessness, how districts fund and staff their programs, and the challenges that districts confront in meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

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5. In the News

Could Tutoring Be the Best Tool for Fighting Learning Loss?

Bloomberg Government (October 6, 2022)

Senators Call for Stronger Rules to Reduce Off-the-Books Suspensions

The Hechinger Report (October 5, 2022)

America's Education Report Card Shows We're Failing Our Most Vulnerable Students

The Hill (October 4, 2022)

Young and Homeless in Rural America

The New York Times (September 29, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Event: Principals Month Policy Briefing (E&S)

Subject: The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) will hold an event to discuss the current state of K-12 education, enacting solutions to address growing educator shortages and the professional teacher and school leader pipeline, improving mental health support for students and educators, and more. The discussion will be followed by a networking luncheon.

Participants: Silvia Martinez, Office of Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM); Roberto Rodríguez, assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy development, U.S. Department of Education; Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD); Samuel Buckley, assistant principal, Pikesville High School; Edward Cosentino, principal, Clemens Crossing Elementary School; Sue Danielson, principal, Rosa Parks Elementary School; and Robert Motley, principal, Atholton High School.

Time/Location: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; AFL-CIO Building, Solidarity Room, 815 Black Lives Matter Plaza, NW, Washington, D.C. (*Proof of COVID-19 vaccination will be required, and facemasks are required in common areas of the building*)

Registration: Register [here.](#)

Webinar: Congressional Briefing on Educator Diversity (E&S, H)

Subject: Latinos for Education will host a briefing to examine educator diversity.

Participants: Amanda Fernandez, founder and CEO, Latinos for Education; Roberto Rodriguez, assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy development, U.S. Department of Education; Feliza Ortiz-Licon, chief policy and advocacy officer, Latinos for Education; Eric Duncan, assistant director of policy, The Education Trust; Manny Cruz, advocacy director, Latinos for Education; and Jacqueline Rodriguez, vice president for research policy and advocacy, AACTE.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM ET

Registration: Register [here.](#)

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Webinar: Maintaining Healthy Schools (E&S)

Subject: AASA, the School Superintendents Association, will host a webinar to discuss how district leaders in partnership with healthcare providers, parents and other key stakeholders can prioritize the development of systems, policies, practices, and facilities that promote health, safety, and equity to ensure student success in both health and learning.

Participants: Sasha Pudelski, director of advocacy, AASA; Elizabeth Cook, senior director, Alliance for a Healthier Generation; and Stephanie Domain, director of child safety, health and wellness, American Academy of Pediatrics.

Time/Location: 1:00 PM ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: In recess until Tuesday, October 11

House Floor: In recess until Monday, November 14

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

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

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