



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations
Weekly Education Report
LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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Jared Solomon, Editor

jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com

Della Cronin, Editor

dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com

Bob Moran, Editor

rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com

The COSSBA Education Report, a weekly publication, provides an executive summary of public policy issues affecting American K-12 education and employment. **Please use the bookmarks below to navigate to your area of interest:**

1. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**
 - **Broadband Connectivity and E-Rate**
 - **Improved Broadband Maps to Deliver More Connectivity:** On Friday, November 18, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unveiled the **first draft** of new, dramatically improved national broadband availability maps.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **ED Launches Career-Connected Learning Initiative for Young Americans:** On Monday, November 14, the Department of Education (ED) launched Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success, a Biden-Harris initiative that also includes the Departments of Commerce and Labor to increase and expand access to high quality training programs for young Americans to pursue jobs in high-demand fields.
 - **School District Leaders Discuss Significance of Community Schools:** On Monday, November 14, Brookings hosted a webinar titled, “How District Leaders Start and Sustain Community Schools.” Panelists discussed the federal government’s Full-Service Community Schools Grant Program; exponential

growth in community schools over the last two decades; and a community schools' ability to meet student and family needs.

- **ED, CDC Hold Webinar on Connecting Students to STEM, Public Health:** On Tuesday, November 15, the Department of Education (ED) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hosted a joint webinar titled, "Public Health and STEM with the CDC." The event highlighted CDC resources for K-12 career pathways into STEM-centered public health fields.
- **Leaders in Apprenticeship Examine Youth Apprenticeship Progress:** On Thursday, November 16th, New America hosted an event titled, "Progress and Opportunity in Youth Apprenticeship: Looking Back on Four Years of PAYA." The five-hour event included several panels on a variety of topics that featured nearly 20 expert leaders in youth apprenticeship programs. The event celebrated four years of New America's Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA), an initiative to support youth in their educational and employment trajectories through access to high quality apprenticeships.

4. **New Publications**

- **Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policies**
National Council on Teacher Quality (November, 2022)
Given the importance of state policies to set the conditions for successful evaluation systems, NCTQ has regularly collected data, starting in 2011, to chart states' progress in adopting evidence-based evaluation practices. In this report, NCTQ analyzes statewide policies for teacher and principal evaluations in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, using data collected in fall of 2021 and verified by states in early 2022, in order to answer the following questions:
 - What role does the state play in teacher and principal evaluation design?
 - What components are included in a teacher or principal's evaluation?
 - When, where, how, and by whom are evaluations conducted?
 - Are evaluations used for support and improvement?

5. **In the News**

- **30 Years of K-12 School Reform Have Barely Moved the Needle on Improving Learning or Reducing Equity Gaps**
Inside Higher Ed (November 15, 2022)
- **Murray Seeking to be Second Appropriations Chair Women**
The Hill (November 16, 2022)
- **Oversight a Priority for GOP on House Education and Labor Panel**
Bloomberg Government (November 17, 2022)

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

- **Webinar: How School Districts Can Benefit From Public Housing Partnerships:** In this webinar, a panel of guests drawn from the housing and education sectors at national and local levels will explore how to create and/or improve partnerships between school districts and agencies that develop and operate public and publicly subsidized housing. Panelists will discuss school-housing partnerships in the context of learnings from a 20-state study commissioned by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

Tuesday, November 22

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- No events of note.

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

- Congress is out of session through Monday, November 28.

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

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND E-RATE

IMPROVED BROADBAND MAPS TO DELIVER MORE CONNECTIVITY

The Hill (November 17, 2022)

On Friday, November 18, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unveiled the **first draft** of new, dramatically improved national broadband availability maps. According to the FCC, the pre-production draft will provide a more accurate initial picture of broadband availability throughout the United States. A National Broadband Map Fact Sheet can be found **here**.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Congress returned to Washington, DC last week and political posturing began right away. As was widely reported at the start of last week, a group of Republicans in both the House and Senate were suggesting that the party might need new leadership in each of the chambers in the 118th Congress. Those sentiments didn't last long. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was easily elected to continue to lead Senate Republicans. In the House, current Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) will need to win 218 votes on the floor in January to become Speaker of the House. That number may be difficult to achieve after only receiving a vote total of 188 from the Republican Conference last week to be their candidate.

On Thursday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that she would be stepping down from her spot as the top Democrat in the House. Her leadership team did the same – Majority Leader, Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Whip, Representative James Clyburn (D-SC). She said to her colleagues, “For me, the hour has come for a new generation to lead the Democratic caucus that I so deeply respect,” clearing the way for younger members to lead the party next year.

In other leadership efforts relating to Committee Chairs, Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC) has made it known she would like to chair what will be the Education and Workforce

Committee, but needs a waiver from leadership to do so. Given the slim majority and many internal Republican factions presumptive Speaker McCarthy will be juggling, doubt has been cast on whether she will receive it. Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI) is a potential contender, as is Representative Jim Banks (R-IN). Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) will almost certainly remain the top Democrat on the panel.

In the Senate, many in the education advocacy community were concerned that a Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee led by Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rand Paul (R-KY) would result in little action on education policy. On Thursday, it was announced that Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) will be the top Republican. (Senator Paul will be the top Republican on the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.) Senator Cassidy has been active on education issues, notably for his concern in better serving dyslexic students, and is reportedly eager to take the spot.

As for appropriations, all signs are pointing to the two committees being led by females. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) will chair the Senate panel; Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) will be sitting beside her as the Ranking Republican. In the House, Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX) will switch roles.

While some lawmakers are angling for various positions in the next Congress, others are trying to finish the business of the current Congress. Spending for FY 2023 is a priority for current members who are working on an omnibus bill. The House Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2023 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill this summer; it provides an \$11.3 billion increase over the net level of FY 2022 funding for Department of Education programs and big increases for education programs in other agencies. The House would spend \$3.3 billion more than their Senate peers in a bill proposed by Senate Appropriations Democrats. Neither bill saw a floor vote before Congress passed a continuing resolution that extended FY 2022 funding levels until December 16. While there are many possible scenarios for how the next few weeks play out, there is reason to believe that Congress will pass an omnibus appropriations package in December that increases Education Department funding by a significant amount.

Congress is in recess this week, but will return next week with much work to do. December will certainly be filled with drama on Capitol Hill.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

A divided Congress will certainly influence the policy and fiscal agenda beginning in 2023 and has already impacted whether a FY 23 omnibus funding bill is passed in the lame duck session that will resume next week. The House of Representatives landed a narrow Republican control, and the Democrats retained their slim majority in the Senate. Although it is possible that a FY 23 government funding package might be pushed into the New Year, there is now less incentive to do so. If an omnibus package is indeed passed in December, Education Department funding could increase significantly.

As for Congressional committee priorities in the 118th Congress, GOP plans for the House Appropriations Committee will depend on what happens later this year, as Republicans debate whether to seek a lame-duck spending deal or push the deadline into next year. In the Senate,

Sen. Murray (D-WA), set to become chair of the Appropriations Committee, will likely put a spotlight on the debate over abortion access. Republicans on the House Education and Labor Committee, soon to be titled the House Education and Workforce Committee, will increase oversight of the Biden administration, expanding on efforts initiated by GOP members when they were in the minority, such as those related to school boards. Meanwhile, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee is poised to start 2023 with a leadership shake-up, as highlighted above, and unfinished business, including oversight of labor nominees and the department itself, as well as considering ways to make the United States more prepared for the next pandemic.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED LAUNCHES CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

On Monday, November 14, the Department of Education (ED) **launched** Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success, a Biden-Harris initiative that also includes the Departments of Commerce and Labor to increase and expand access to high quality training programs for young Americans to pursue jobs in high-demand fields. The tri-agency partnership also aims to “strengthen the connection between K-12 education, postsecondary education, and workforce programs” and is supported by the \$120 billion dedicated to K-12 education in the American Rescue plan (ARP) and **Perkins funding**, according to ED’s press release. “The Administration is ensuring the next generation is building the skills necessary to fill high-paying jobs like those created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and CHIPS and Science Act. This includes expanding access to skills-based learning and training pathways, like Registered Apprenticeships in key industries such as advanced manufacturing, automotive, and cybersecurity,” Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona stated, “It’s time we bridge the divide between our K-12 systems and our college, career, and industry preparation programs, which leave too many students behind and perpetuate inequities in our most diverse, underserved, and rural communities.” He continued, “An education system reimagined for the 21st century engages youth of all ages in the power of career-connected learning and provides every student with the opportunity to gain real-life work experience, earn college credits, and make progress towards an industry credential before they graduate high school.” Monday’s announcements include the Administration investing \$5.6 million in Perkins funding for schools to expand work-based learning opportunities and providing new guidance to schools on using ARP funds to expand career pathways for students. Learn more [here](#).

SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERS DISCUSS SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

On Monday, November 14, Brookings hosted a webinar titled, “How District Leaders Start and Sustain Community Schools.” The event featured Reuben Jacobson, director of the Education and Policy Leadership Program at American University; Adrienne Battle, director of Metro Nashville Public Schools; Daniel Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA); Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, superintendent of Hartford Public Schools in Connecticut; and Ingrid Williams-Horton, director of community schools for Prince George’s County Public Schools in Maryland. Jacobson underscored the two-decade significant growth of community schools and highlighted the federal government’s **Full-Service Community Schools Grant Program**, noting that the program has awarded 84 grants to 26 states. At the state level, Williams-Horton explained that Maryland has invested billions of

dollars in funding to make every high poverty school a community school, and at the local level, there are several community leaders, institutions of higher education, and municipal partnerships that are committed to solving local problems through a community school strategy. Battle stressed the importance of including community partners to ensure both students and their families are getting the support they need in order to thrive in their school community. “You learn you cannot do it by yourself, you need very powerful and impactful community partnerships to make sure we’re able to provide the critical wraparound services and support that students and families need,” Battle said. Domenech addressed the gravity of meeting a student's social and emotional needs. “Behavioral issues with our students today is incredible,” he said. “The need for these students to be fed, the need for them to get the social and emotional attention they're not getting - all of these things are necessary services that cannot be provided by the school alone, and that's where the community schools movement is so critical,” Domenech added. He also stated that AASA is pushing congress and the Department of Education to continue allocating funds in this area, because community school outcomes at the district level have been successful thus far. Torres-Rodriguez explained that the reason her district implemented community schools was because they noticed wraparound services were not reaching every family, and that a community school framework might serve their students and families better. “Creating conditions for our partners, families, and caregivers to have a seat at all tables and co-create with us” is imperative to continuing and sustaining school improvement, she concluded. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

ED, CDC HOLD WEBINAR ON CONNECTING STUDENTS TO STEM, PUBLIC HEALTH

On Tuesday, November 15, the Department of Education (ED) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hosted a joint webinar titled, “Public Health and STEM with the CDC.” The event featured Kelly Bloodworth, an epidemiologist for the CDC, Juliana Azeredo, a CDC Fellow; Trudi Ellerman, education director at the David J. Sencer CDC Museum; and Alex McHardy, STEM education specialist at the David J Sencer Museum. Bloodworth listed CDC STEM resources designed to reach educators in middle and high school, including teacher fellowships, regional training, STEM lesson plans, and a [CDC Nerd Academy program](#). For college students and professionals, Bloodworth explained, the CDC provides over 60 different fellowship and training programs to create pathways and connections for those interested in public health, while also recruiting and training professionals in the field. Bloodworth explained how public health studies can be incorporated into more schools, noting that they are transdisciplinary and “allow for inquiry-based learning, touching on many different topic areas outside of math and STEM, like economics, policy, and politics.” Azeredo commented on public health sector career pathways, asserting that job opportunities in this sector are limitless even outside of the CDC. She also emphasized different education programs that can expand opportunities into the public health sector that do not require a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree. Ellerman examined CDC resources available to K-12 students that include camps and in person experiences, comics and graphic novels, games and apps, independent learning activities, and an online summer course. Ellerman also elaborated on the David J. Sencer CDC Museum’s mission “to preserve CDC history and educate the public about public health.” In addition, Ellerman noted that the CDC regularly reaches out to Title I students to ensure that these resources are reaching them, and “we are looking at ways to support these students by helping them apply to the programs and getting them physically there,” she stated further. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

LEADERS IN APPRENTICESHIP EXAMINE YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRESS

On Thursday, November 16th, New America hosted an event titled, “Progress and Opportunity in Youth Apprenticeship: Looking Back on Four Years of PAYA.” The five-hour event included several panels on a variety of topics that featured nearly 20 expert leaders in youth apprenticeship programs. The event celebrated four years of New America’s Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA), an initiative to support youth in their educational and employment trajectories through access to high quality apprenticeships. PAYA convenes and mobilizes the expertise, experience, and collective networks of national, state, and regional partners, and on Thursday, those leaders invited policymakers, employers, partners, and educators to discuss the workings behind the program, the importance of apprenticeships, and the challenges and opportunities the field faces. Taylor White, national director of PAYA, explained that expanding youth apprenticeships is a strategy they have built to produce a more inclusive and robust economy by connecting the learning needs of students with the talent needs of the industry. White stated that PAYA enrolls nonwhite and female apprentices at higher rates than the U.S. apprenticeship system overall. Daphne Ross, senior director of college success and communications for Say Yes Buffalo, suggested that even a tuition free college education could be too costly to some students. This program, she stated, provides students with economic mobility and a pathway for students to enter the workforce. Stephanie Gomez, director of Career Launch Chicago, highlighted that when implementing these programs, students are receiving college credit or gaining certifications of some sort. She also asserted the need for apprenticeships to benefit the entire company and encouraged more discussion among community and national leaders to participate in programs that benefit all parties involved. Carius Caffey, IT pathways program manager for Rush University Medical Center, listed some policies that companies may have in place that reinforce barriers to students wishing to participate in their apprenticeship programs. Caffey suggested altering these policies and having transparent conversations with potential applicants and within the company that enable an equitable workforce. “The longer it takes for a young adult to get into this program, it will be harder for them to get into the workforce.” He continued, claiming there needs to be equity, state urgency around apprenticeships, and an incentive structure at the state level to reward companies for participating in apprenticeship programs. An archived recording of the event will be posted [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policies

National Council on Teacher Quality (November, 2022)

Given the importance of state policies to set the conditions for successful evaluation systems, NCTQ has regularly collected data, starting in 2011, to chart states' progress in adopting evidence-based evaluation practices. In this report, NCTQ analyzes statewide policies for teacher and principal evaluations in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, using data collected in fall of 2021 and verified by states in early 2022, in order to answer the following questions:

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5. In the News

30 Years of K-12 School Reform Have Barely Moved the Needle on Improving Learning or Reducing Equity Gaps

Inside Higher Ed (November 15, 2022)

Murray Seeking to be Second Appropriations Chairwoman

The Hill (November 16, 2022)

Oversight a Priority for GOP on House Education and Labor Panel

Bloomberg Government (November 17, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Webinar: How School Districts Can Benefit From Public Housing Partnerships

Subject: In this webinar, a panel of guests drawn from the housing and education sectors at national and local levels will explore how to create and/or improve partnerships between school districts and agencies that develop and operate public and publicly subsidized housing. Panelists will discuss school-housing partnerships in the context of learnings from a 20-state study commissioned by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and conducted by the EdWeek Research Center. The survey results paint a picture of the landscape of these partnerships and lifts up ways for both sectors to build stronger and more impactful inter-agency relationships.

Participants: Abra Lyons-Warren, Director of Cross-Sector Initiatives, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities; Teree Caldwell-Johnson, President and CEO, Oakridge Neighborhood, Des Moines, Iowa; Jaynette Rittman, Principal, Edmunds Elementary School, Des Moines Public Schools (IA); Holly Kurtz, Director, EdWeek Research Center

Time/Location: 3:00 PM

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

No events of note.

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: The Senate is in recess and will return Monday, November 28.

House Floor: The House is in recess and will return Tuesday, November 29.

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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