



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations

Weekly Education Report

LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON

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The COSSBA Education Report will not publish again until January 9, 2023. The Bose Public Affairs Group team wishes you all a wonderful, safe and blessed holiday season and looks forward to connecting again in the New Year!

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**

• **Senate Holds Hearing on Broadband Access, Universal Connectivity:**

The Senate held a hearing where Members addressed the millions of Americans that live in rural, Tribal and low-income urban areas that do not have access to affordable broadband; underscored congressional support for expanded broadband services through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); and highlighted new federal support for broadband access, affordability and inclusion that would bring the United States closer to closing the digital divide and achieving digital equity.

• **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment**

• **Policy and Research Experts Explore Teacher Shortage Solutions:**

FutureEd held a webinar titled, “Solving the Teacher Shortage Challenge,” where education leaders considered sustainable policies and procedures that are designed to attract and retain educators.

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

• **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **White House Announces Vision for Transforming STEMM:** The White House outlined its national vision for transforming the American STEMM ecosystem at the White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence. Led by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), key leaders outlined the equity and economic imperative to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in STEMM, as

well as concrete actions the Administration and its partners are taking to address barriers.

- **NCES Releases 2020-21 National Teacher and Principal Survey:** The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released three reports on results from its National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS). The NTPS is a nationwide sample survey that collects information from teachers and principals and provides an opportunity for the characteristics and experiences of school staff to inform analyses about the education sector.
- **Federalist Society Looks at Relationship Between Parents and Schools:** The Federalist Society hosted a webinar on “Parental Rights and Religious Liberty: Examining New Conflicts between Parents and the State.” Experts examined the constitutionality of parental rights based on previous court decisions.
- **Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Uvalde, Solutions to Gun Violence:** The House of Representatives held a hearing for gun violence survivors, victims’ families, lawmakers and witnesses to advocate for tougher gun laws and focused on the sources of gun violence.

4. **New Publications**

- **Do States Have the Data They Need to Answer Important Questions about Their Teacher Workforce?**
National Council on Teacher Quality (December, 2022)
NCTQ set out to understand the key data elements states are currently collecting, which data is missing, and the level of detail that is needed to meaningfully answer questions about the teacher workforce.

5. **In the News**

- **What to Know about Walberg’s Education Priorities**
Politico (December 19, 2022)
- **FCC Seeks Public Comment on its Role in School Cybersecurity**
K-12 Dive (December 15, 2022)
- **Educators and Parents Express Concerns about School Mental Services in New National Poll**
The Hill (December 14, 2022)
- **The Biden Administration’s New STEM Initiative: What Will It Mean for K-12 Schools?**
EducationWeek (December 12, 2022)
- **Grow Your Own Programs Train High Schoolers to become Teachers. West Chester is Joining the Movement to Combat the Teacher Shortage.**
The Philadelphia Inquirer (December 11, 2022)

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

- **None**

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **None**

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

- **Consideration of Legislation Providing Further Funding for FY23**
 - **Senate Floor: Consideration of Nominations**
 - **House Floor: Consideration of bills under suspension of the Rules**
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

On Tuesday, December 13, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Communications, Media and Broadband held a hearing titled, “Ensuring Solutions to Meet America’s Broadband Needs.” Witnesses included Kimball Sekaquaptewa, chair of the Connect New Mexico Council and chief technology director at Santa Fe Indian School; The Honorable Michael Powell, president and CEO of The Internet and Television Association; Jonathan Spalter, president and CEO of USTelecom; and Angela Siefer, executive director of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA). Senators addressed the millions of Americans that live in rural, Tribal and low-income urban areas that do not have access to affordable broadband; underscored congressional support for expanded broadband services through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); and highlighted new federal support for broadband access, affordability and inclusion that would bring the United States closer to closing the digital divide and achieving digital equity. In addition to public sector efforts, Members also examined private sector efforts to bring affordable, resilient and secure broadband to their districts. Subcommittee Chairman Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) and witness Kimball Sekaquaptewa honed in on connectivity issues particularly related to the K-12 education system. Sen. Luján considered how Congress might ensure that students across the country have access to equal education when it comes to broadband and distance education. “I think we’ve learned through the pandemic that it’s all about residential access. Internet access in our homes was the only lifeline we had for remote learning,” Sekaquaptewa had responded. The archived video of the hearing and witness testimony can be found [here](#).

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

On Thursday, December 15, FutureEd held a webinar titled, “Solving the Teacher Shortage Challenge.” The event featured Thomas Toch, director of FutureEd; Tequilla Brownie, chief executive officer of The New Teacher Project (TNTP); Dan Goldhaber, director of the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research; Tara Kini, chief of staff and director of state policy for the Learning Policy Institute; Heather Peske, president of the National Council on Teacher Quality; and Rob Weil, director of research, policy, and field programs for education issues at the American Federation of Teachers. The panel explored more effective strategies for attracting and retaining teachers. Kini provided a snap shot of where the U.S. education system stands now, noting that every state is reporting educator shortages in at least one area and referenced findings from the National Teacher and Principal Survey that was just released. She later examined how federal funds can be leveraged and invested in teacher residency and Grow-

Your-Own programs. Brownie emphasized that the teacher shortage is not a new problem, “though it’s certainly exacerbated by Covid,” she said. “We have a national crisis on our hands,” she later stated, stressing that the teacher shortage is not just a K-12 issue – it is an issue that impacts the viability of the workforce, and that a galvanizing effort from leaders outside of the K-12 community is needed. Goldhaber echoed those sentiments and stated that the solutions being considered do not always reflect the nuance of the problem. Peske provided several solutions to consider, which included rethinking how the profession is characterized and developing sustainable policies and procedures that are designed to attract and retain educators. Lastly, Weil commented on building respect for the profession and valuing the voice of educators, having them actively participate in decision making. Learn more [here](#).

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

As had been predicted, there was no resolution of a FY 2023 spending bill last week, but a one-week extension of the continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open was approved. Congress has until this Friday, December 23rd to finish the omnibus spending bill that will include all 12 spending bills.

There was significant progress last week and over the weekend. Three of the four Appropriations Committee leaders announced an agreement on total defense and non-defense spending, without providing the numbers. Reports indicate that House and Senate leadership and Appropriations Committee staff worked through the weekend to finalize the funding measure and it may be released as early as Monday afternoon.

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX) did not join her colleagues in sharing the news. She and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) oppose finalizing FY 2023 spending this Congress. They prefer waiting until next year, when the new Republican House majority will have more leverage and can limit increases for non-defense funding. It is interesting to note that while some Senate Republicans may be sympathetic to waiting until next year, many recognize that should Representative Kevin McCarthy become Speaker, he is likely to have difficulty passing the bill. As such, expect to see more Senate Republican support for a final bill than otherwise might have occurred.

Congress did get one must-pass bill done last week. On Thursday evening, the Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act by a huge bipartisan margin, 83-11. The legislation authorizes \$857 billion for defense programs, a significant increase compared to last year. Senators from the left and right opposed the bill for various reasons, including a repeal of the COVID vaccine mandate for members of the armed forces.

Looking to the 118th Congress, the [**House and Senate calendars are out**](#). Regarding Committee and Subcommittee leadership, House Republicans are delaying decisions on a number of House chairmanships—including the Education and Labor Committee—until January after a Speaker has been selected. Education and Labor Committee ranking member Virginia Foxx (R-NC) has received a waiver of the term-limit rule to allow her to run for chair, but Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI) is challenging her for the post. Education advocates will also have to wait to see who will be leading the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittees. Aside from the implications for advocates who want to prepare for the 118th

Congress, the delayed decisions also mean it will be weeks before staff know what their boss's positions are and whether they have jobs.

This week will be busy focusing on passing the FY 2023 Omnibus funding bill, but seasoned advocates are used to the holiday season bearing gifts of thousands of pages of spending bills. Cheers!

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

What this agreement might mean for education funding isn't clear, although levels will almost certainly be significantly less than what the President requested and what House and Senate Appropriations Committee Democrats proposed this summer. According to the Committee on Education Funding, over the last five years, education funding has increased, but by less than the percentage increase for overall non-defense funding, as Congress has faced many competing priorities. Details of the \$1.7 trillion omnibus bill are expected today.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES VISION FOR TRANSFORMING STEMM

On Monday, December 12, the White House outlined its national vision for transforming the American science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) ecosystem at the White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence. Led by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), key leaders outlined the equity and economic imperative to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in STEMM, as well as concrete actions the Administration and its partners are taking to address barriers. Projections from the National Science Foundation show that STEMM jobs are expected to grow 13% over the next decade, while the economy is expected to grow by 7%. Participants highlighted statistics and equity gaps in STEMM jobs for women, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, rural Americans, people with disabilities, and the LBGTQ+ community. Dr. Alondra Nelson noted that science and technology leadership has improved lives, but historic inequities “shut out individuals, closing off opportunities and limiting our national potential.” National Economic Director Brian Deese outlined the actions the Administration has taken to ensure U.S. competitiveness and economic growth, and John Podesta, senior adviser to President Joe Biden for clean energy innovation and implementation, noted how programs and jobs in STEMM are critical to addressing climate change, especially in communities of color. The Administration **outlined specific actions** it is taking across multiple federal agencies to reduce barriers to STEMM. In addition, it announced a pledge - the **STEMM Opportunity Alliance** - with 90 multi-sector partners committed to \$1.2 billion in work and initiatives to advance STEMM Equity and Excellence.

NCES RELEASES 2020-21 NATIONAL TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL SURVEY

On Tuesday, December 13, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) **released** three reports on results from its National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS). The NTPS is a nationwide sample survey that collects information from teachers and principals and provides an opportunity for the characteristics and experiences of school staff to inform analyses about the education sector. The **first report** on public and private schools found that staff vacancies during the first full school year of the pandemic were difficult or unable to fill. "Schools had difficulty

finding teachers for a variety of disciplines and subjects, including special education, computer science, and mathematics and foreign languages,” said NCES Commissioner Peggy Carr. The [second report](#) on teachers found that K-12 teachers were working 13 hours more per week on average than their contracts required of them. Finally, the [third NTPS report](#) found that principals were similarly working long hours. “The 2021 school year made considerable demands on educators,” said Carr during an NCES briefing. “The efforts to keep students safe and learning results in long hours for teachers and principals across the country.” Each report, as well as detailed summaries of the reports, can be found [here](#).

FEDERALIST SOCIETY LOOKS AT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS

On Wednesday, December 14, the Federalist Society hosted a webinar on “Parental Rights and Religious Liberty: Examining New Conflicts between Parents and the State.” The event featured James Dwyer, Arthur B. Hanson professor of law at William and Mary Law School; Ryan Bangert, senior vice president of strategic initiatives and special counsel to the president at Alliance Defending Freedom; and Richard W. Garnett, Paul J. Schierl/Fort Howard Corporation professor of law and director of the Church, State & Society Program at the University of Notre Dame Law School. Dwyer began the webinar by detailing how the Supreme Court has articulated that parents have the unenumerated right rooted in the Fourteenth Amendment to direct the care, custody, and upbringing of their children since the 1920’s. This has been noted in such cases as *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, *Meyer v. Nebraska*, *Parham v. J.R.* and *Troxel v. Granville*. He further suggested that while the high court has established these rights, the precise contours and the level of scrutiny have long been uncertain and inconsistent, pointing to the lack of parental control and involvement in public education today. Bangert then discussed the court’s recent decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, explaining that the Supreme Court noted that its decision does not call into question its line of cases on parental rights, but does leave one wondering how parents rights might be affected by the decision. In particular, Bangert pointed to recent conflicts over ideas about gender and race and the role of schools and parents in these issues. Bangert contended that questions such as, “Who has the primary responsibility for the formation of a child’s identity and values?” and, “Do parental rights extend beyond the schoolhouse gate to include instruction and policies in schools?” will need to be addressed by the courts in the future, and that if existing doctrine carries weight, the court should side with parents on these questions. For more information, click [here](#).

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON UVALDE, SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE

On Thursday, December 15, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing titled, “Examining Uvalde: The Search for Bipartisan Solutions to Gun Violence.” Witnesses included Nicole Melchionno from Sandy Hook, CT; Faith Mata, the sister of one of the Uvalde victims; Dr. Roy Guerrero, Uvalde’s only pediatrician; Texas State Senator Roland Gutierrez; Jack Brewer, chair of the Center for Opportunity Now; Anthony Holt, Chief of Police for the Wayne State Police Department; John Lott, President of the Crime Prevention Research Center; and T. Christian Heyne, vice president of policy at Brady. Thursday’s hearing was held for survivors, victims’ families, lawmakers and witnesses to advocate for tougher gun laws and focused on the sources of gun violence. Subcommittee Chairwoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) referenced proposals Democrats have previously raised to prevent gun violence, which include increasing the purchasing age; establishing red flag laws; and banning AR-15-style weapons. She criticized Republicans for not

supporting them. “Bill after bill, policy after policy, Republican colleagues oppose our efforts to keep our communities safer. They repeatedly oppose legislation that could prevent violence, and they've opposed investments in effective law enforcement,” the Chairwoman said. In her opening statement, Jackson Lee also commented on the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) championed, yet during his witness testimony, Texas State Senator Gutierrez criticized this historic gun control and mental health bill, particularly for its exclusion of a minimum age increase. Meanwhile, Republicans on the Subcommittee turned the issue to mental health, with Subcommittee Chairman Andy Biggs (R-AZ) saying, “If you're going to solve this question, ‘Why does someone shoot? Why pull the trigger? Why do they do that?’ If we're not willing to have that discussion, which apparently we're not, you'll never resolve this issue.” An archived recording of the hearing and witness testimony can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Do States Have the Data They Need to Answer Important Questions about Their Teacher Workforce?

National Council on Teacher Quality (December, 2022)

NCTQ set out to understand the key data elements states are currently collecting, which data is missing, and the level of detail that is needed to meaningfully answer questions about the teacher workforce. This work expands on a [previous report](#) that focused on the teacher supply and demand data states make public, which revealed serious gaps in the public availability of data. In July 2022, NCTQ surveyed states to determine the extent to which they collect data on 39 distinct data elements related to teacher supply, demand, and demographics.

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5. In the News

What to Know about Walberg's Education Priorities

Politico (December 19, 2022)

FCC Seeks Public Comment on its Role in School Cybersecurity

K-12 Dive (December 15, 2022)

Educators and Parents Express Concerns about School Mental Health Services in New National Poll

The Hill (December 14, 2022)

The Biden Administration's New STEM Initiative: What Will It Mean for K-12 Schools?

EducationWeek (December 12, 2022)

Grow your own programs train high schoolers to become teachers. West Chester is joining the movement to combat the teacher shortage.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (December 11, 2022)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

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

None.

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7. Future Hearings and Events

None.

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Consideration of Legislation Providing Further Funding for FY23

Senate Floor: Consideration of J. Gruenberg to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

House Floor: Consideration of bills under suspension of the Rules

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](#)

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[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:

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