



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**
 - **\$224M OSERS Grant Program Aims to Improve Transition Services for Students with Disabilities:** The Education Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is inviting applications for its Disability Innovation Fund -- Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project.
 - **Child Nutrition**
 - **USDA Extends Comment Period for Proposed Changes to School Nutrition Standards:** The USDA Food and Nutrition Service is extending the public comment period on the proposed rule, "Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans." This action extends the public comment period from April 10, 2023, to May 10, 2023, to give the public additional time to review the proposed rule.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **ED Issues Proposed Rule Change to Title IX Student Athletics Eligibility:** On April 6, the Department of Education (ED) **released** a notice of proposed

rulemaking (NPRM) on athletic eligibility under Title IX. The ED says the rule change will “advance Title IX's longstanding goal of ensuring equal opportunity in athletics.”

- **ED Publishes Student Health Record Guidance for School Officials:** On Wednesday, April 12, the Biden Administration announced new actions to safeguard patient privacy, including protecting students’ health information with guidance for school officials and a know your rights resource.

4. New Publications

- **Teachers’ Preparation Experiences from Coursework to the Classroom: Findings from the 2022 Learn Together Survey**

RAND Corporation (April, 2023)

This report looks at responses from a nationally representative sample of 3,606 K–12 teachers who took the 2022 Learn Together Survey (LTS) to see what teachers said about how well their Teacher Preparation Programs provided the training, experiences, and resources needed to transition to the classroom.

5. In the News

- **Council for School Safety Leadership Launches to Help Schools Recover from Tragedy**

K-12 Dive (April 12, 2023)

- **Schools Used ESSER Funds for Afterschool Programs: What Happens When the Money Runs Out?**

Education Week (April 11, 2023)

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

- **Hearing: House Labor-H Appropriations Subcommittee on FY24 Education Budget:** The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "2024 Request for the United States Department of Education."

Tuesday, April 18 at 10:15am ET

- **Hearing: House Education Subcommittee on School Choice:** The House Committee on Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee holds a hearing on "School Choice: Expanding Educational Freedom for All."

Tuesday, April 18 at 10:15am ET

- **Webinar: Education Trends in States: Education Choice and School Finance:** NCSL will hold a virtual discussion on "Education Trends in States: K-12 Education Funding and Teacher Policy," with this session focusing on education choice and school finance.

Wednesday, April 19 at 3pm ET

7. Future Hearings & Events

- **Event: 40 Years of A Nation at Risk: Where Are We and What’s Next for Public Education?** The Aspen Institute’s Education & Society Program will hold a public panel to commemorate the enduring contributions of this landmark

report, take stock of lessons learned, and frame an agenda that will meet the challenges of today and tomorrow while galvanizing broad, bipartisan support.
Tuesday, April 25 at 10am ET

- **Hearing: House Oversight Subcommittee on Consequences of School Closures Part 2**: The House Oversight and Accountability Select Coronavirus Pandemic Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "The Consequences of School Closures, Part 2."
Wednesday, April 26 at 2pm ET
- **Event: Voices from the Classroom 2023**: Educators for Excellence (E4E) will be releasing their 6th annual national teacher survey results – “Voices from the Classroom: Teachers advocate for change to America’s entire education system.”
Thursday, April 27 at 9:30am ET

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

- **Consideration of nominations**
- **S. 870** – Fire Grants and Safety Act
- **Veto Message to Accompany H.J. Res 27** - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"
- **H.J. Res. 42** - Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022
- **H.R. 734** - Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023

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

10. **About BPAG**

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

\$224M AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is **inviting applications** for its **Disability Innovation Fund -- Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project**, the largest discretionary grant administered by RSA, with approximately \$224 million available to fund multiple innovative projects managed through partnerships among state vocational rehabilitation agencies (SVRAs), state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs), and centers for independent living (CILs). “Funded projects will focus on the creation of systemic approaches to improve access to pre-employment transition services. The goal is to pave a clear and robust path to independent living and competitive, integrated employment as individuals with disabilities move from high school to postsecondary

endeavors,” the RSA press release says. The deadline for applications from eligible SVRAs and SEAs is June 5.

CHILD NUTRITION

USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD for SCHOOL NUTRITION STANDARDS PROPOSAL

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service is extending the public comment period on the proposed rule, “Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” which published in the Federal Register on February 7, 2023. This action extends the public comment period from April 10, 2023, to May 10, 2023, to give the public additional time to review the proposed rule. As of Friday, USDA received 74,133 comments on its proposal to make gradual yet significant changes to school nutrition requirements on whole grains, sugar and sodium. The USDA’s proposal would require schools to offer mostly whole grain products beginning in fall 2024, with gradual sugar and sodium content reductions occurring through 2029.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Congress was in recess the previous two weeks, but is back in session this week and busy. The House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee will host Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona on Tuesday to discuss the fiscal year 2024 Department of Education budget. Leaders from other agencies will be keeping members of the Committee occupied all week at other hearings on those agencies’ budget. The House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education will hold a hearing on school choice on Tuesday as well. On the other side of the Capitol, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Julie Su to serve as the Secretary of Labor.

As Congress returns, there will undoubtedly be more conversations by House Republicans on how to address the country’s debt limit and cut spending. It has been reported that the proposal being developed by the GOP would lift the debt limit until May 2024, cap non-defense discretionary funding for FY 2024 at FY 2022 levels, allowing for 1% growth thereafter, and install work requirements on Medicaid and other government programs. The debate of what and how to cut is ongoing, but a list of proposals being considered was published by Politico. House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) has mounted efforts to oppose cutting spending to FY 2022 levels, and the White House released state fact sheets detailing the effects such cuts would have.

Passing a budget that provides a topline spending number allows the Appropriations Committee to begin its work. In the absence of a budget, Leadership will determine that topline number, which Committee leaders will divide across the twelve spending bills and allow staff to start writing bills. The Senate will follow after the House, and advocates will approach each Chamber in support of funding priorities.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

We have previously reported on the proposed Republican FY24 budget cuts and how they could impact public education. In addition, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona wrote a letter describing the effects of such cuts to education funding.

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED ISSUES PROPOSED RULE CHANGE TO TITLE IX STUDENT ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY

On April 6, the Department of Education (ED) released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on athletic eligibility under Title IX. ED says the rule change will “advance Title IX’s longstanding goal of ensuring equal opportunity in athletics.” Based on two years of stakeholder outreach to develop the proposed rule, ED says they found that many schools, students, parents, and coaches were uncertain about when and how transgender students can participate in school sports, due in part to the increasing number of states that have adopted new laws and policies on transgender student athletics participation. “The NPRM, if adopted as a final rule, would provide much needed clarity for students, parents, and coaches,” ED says. According to ED’s press release, the NPRM would: 1) Establish that policies violate Title IX when they ban transgender students from participating on sports teams consistent with their gender identity, 2) recognize that in certain competitive athletic environments, such as college sports, some schools may adopt policies that limit transgender students’ participation, and 3) provide schools with a framework for developing eligibility criteria that protects students from being denied equal athletic opportunity, while giving schools the flexibility to develop their own participation policies. “Every student should be able to have the full experience of attending school in America, including participating in athletics, free from discrimination,” said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. Today’s proposed rule is designed to support Title IX’s protection for equal athletics opportunity. We welcome and encourage public comment on the proposed regulation and will continue working to ensure Title IX’s effective protection for all students,” he continued. The ED’s NPRM will be open for public comment for 30 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register. A full summary of the NPRM is [here](#).

ED PUBLISHES STUDENT HEALTH RECORD GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL OFFICIALS

On Wednesday, April 12, the Biden Administration announced new actions to safeguard patient privacy, including protecting students’ health information with guidance for school officials and a know your rights resource. This guidance document for school officials provides officials with general information about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), with a particular focus on student health records maintained by educational agencies and institutions and by third parties acting on their behalf.

4. New Publications

Teachers’ Preparation Can Expand and Sustain the Infrastructure Workforce by Meeting Child Care Needs

RAND Corporation (April, 2023)

This report looks at responses from a nationally representative sample of 3,606 K–12 teachers who took the 2022 Learn Together Survey (LTS) to see what teachers said about how well their Teacher Preparation Programs provided the training, experiences, and resources needed to transition to the classroom. This analysis describes the preparation experience of the current K–12 teaching workforce and not the current state of K–12 TPPs. With that in mind, the authors discuss the implications of key findings and recommendations to promote a robust teaching workforce.

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5. In the News

Council for School Safety Leadership Launches to Help Schools Recover from Tragedy
K-12 Dive (April 12, 2023)

Schools Used ESSER Funds for Afterschool Programs. What Happens When the Money Runs Out?
Education Week (April 11, 2023)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Hearing: House Labor-H Appropriations Subcommittee on FY24 Education Budget

Subject: The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "2024 Request for the United States Department of Education."

Witness: Miguel Cardona, secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

Time and Location: 10:00 a.m.; 2359 Rayburn HOB, Washington D.C.

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

Hearing: House Education Subcommittee on School Choice

Subject: The House Education and the Workforce Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee holds a hearing on "School Choice: Expanding Educational Freedom for All."

Time and Location: 10:15 a.m.; 2175 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C.

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

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Webinar: Education Trends in States: Education Choice and School Finance

Subject: NCSL will hold a virtual discussion on "Education Trends in States: K-12 Education Funding and Teacher Policy," with this session focusing on education choice and school finance.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Event: 40 Years of A Nation at Risk: Where Are We and What's Next for Public Education?

Subject: The Aspen Institute's Education & Society Program will hold a public panel to commemorate the enduring contributions of this landmark report, take stock of lessons learned,

and frame an agenda that will meet the challenges of today and tomorrow while galvanizing broad, bipartisan support.

Participants: Ross Weiner, executive director, Aspen Institute Education & Society Program; Gerard Robinson, fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia; Penny Schwinn, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education; Roberto Rodriguez, assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy development, U.S. Department of Education; and Loren Cox, policy director, Aspen Institute Education & Society Program.

Time and Location: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Aspen Institute, 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Hearing: House Oversight Subcommittee on Consequences of School Closures Part 2

Subject: The House Oversight and Accountability Select Coronavirus Pandemic Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "The Consequences of School Closures, Part 2."

Time and Location: 2:00 p.m.; 2247 Rayburn HOB, Washington D.C.

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

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Event: Voices from the Classroom 2023

Subject: Educators for Excellence (E4E) will be releasing their 6th annual national teacher survey results- Voices from the Classroom: Teachers advocate for change to America's entire education system.

Time and Location: 9:30 a.m.; 2044 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C.

Registration: Register [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor:

[S.870](#) - Fire Grants and Safety Act

Consideration of nominations

House Floor:

Veto Message to Accompany [H.J. Res 27](#) - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"

[H.J. Res. 42](#) - Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022

[H.R. 734](#) - Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023

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

[U.S. House and Senate 2023 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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10. 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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