

## The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

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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. <u>News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities</u>
  - <u>IDEA</u>
    - <u>Disability Experts Look at Trump EO on Disparate Impact</u>: On May 27, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) hosted a webinar titled, "Protecting Disabled Students Part 2: What Is Disparate Impact and Why Do We Need It?"

#### 2. <u>Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up</u>

- Impact on State School Board Associations
- 3. <u>In Brief Last Week in Washington</u>
  - <u>CATO Explores Debate on Parental Rights Policy Intersection</u>: On May 29, the Cato Institute hosted a conference exploring the evolving debate over parental rights, particularly as they intersect with education, health care, and government authority.
  - <u>AEI Researchers Examine Chronic Absenteeism Since Pandemic</u>: On May 30, The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an event titled, "Addressing the Attendance Crisis: New Research on Chronic Absenteeism Since the Pandemic."
  - <u>Senate Appropriators Hear from McMahon on FY26 ED Budget</u>: On Tuesday, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing to examine the Department of Education's (ED) FY 2026 budget request.

- <u>House Education Panel Hears from McMahon on ED Policies, Priorities</u>: On Wednesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce held a contentious hearing with Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to examine the policies and priorities of the Department of Education (ED).
- <u>HELP Committee Holds Hearing on Education Department Nominees</u>: On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on two Trump administration nominees for the Department of Education.
- <u>House Workforce Panel Hears from Labor Sec. Chavez-Deremer</u>: On Thursday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce held an oversight hearing focused on the Department of Labor's (DOL) policies and priorities under Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, with several discussions intersecting with education and workforce development policy.

#### 4. <u>New Publications</u>

 <u>The Future of Youth Development: Building Out-of-School-Time (OST)</u> <u>Systems and Strengthening Programs</u>

National Academies (May 2025)

This interactive report explores the effectiveness of OST programs, their role in youth development, and key recommendations for strengthening their sustainability and quality.

### How Apprenticeship Programs Could Help Fill In-Demand Jobs

U.S. Government Accountability Office (May 29, 2025) This Q&A examines earn-and-learn opportunities, which can give individuals a mix of work experience and instruction on in-demand skills—while they earn a wage.

#### 5. <u>In the News</u>

- <u>Out-of-School Programs Play an Outsized Role in Child Development</u> *The 74 (May 29, 2025)*
- <u>What's Happening to Federal Money for Teacher Training</u> Education Week (June 3, 2025)
- From Vouchers to a Cellphone Ban, This Year's Lawmaking Session Brought Transformative Changes to Texas Schools The Texas Tribune (June 3, 2025)
- Education Researchers Struggle to Pick Up the Pieces After Trump Cuts The Hill (June 4, 2025)
- <u>Trump Pause on Visa Appointments Worries Districts Relying on Foreign</u>
   <u>Teachers</u>
   <u>K 12 Discusses (Lagrander 2025)</u>
  - K-12 Dive (June 4, 2025)
- <u>In Emergency Appeal, Trump Asks Supreme Court to Let Him Gut</u> <u>Education Department</u> USA Today (June 6, 2025)
- 6. <u>Weekly Calendar What's coming up this week?</u>

 <u>Screentime in Schools</u>: The House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education will hold a hearing on screentime in schools.

Tuesday at 10:15am ET

- <u>High-Quality K-12 STEM Instruction</u>: The Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion on "Promoting High-Quality K-12 STEM Instruction to Prepare Students for the Future." *Tuesday at 12:30pm ET*
- <u>House Appropriations Committee on FY26 Agriculture Appropriations Bill</u>: The full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark-up the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture and related agencies bill. *Wednesday at 10am ET*
- <u>House Appropriations Committee on FY26 Agriculture Appropriations Bill</u>: The full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark-up the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture and related agencies bill. *Wednesday at 10am ET*
- <u>Policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>: The House Agriculture Committee will receive testimony from USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins. *Wednesday at 10am ET*
- <u>Aging Out is Not a Plan: Reimagining Futures for Foster Youth</u>: The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work & Welfare will hold a hearing on foster youth.

Thursday at 9am ET

• <u>A Hearing with Sanctuary State Governors</u>: The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will have a hearing with "sanctuary" state governors in the Capitol. *Thursday at 10am ET* 

### 7. <u>Future Hearings & Events</u>

- <u>Can the President Shut Down the Department of Education?</u> The Federalist Society's Regulatory Transparency Project will host a virtual panel discussion on "Can the President Shut Down the Department of Education?" *June 16 at 2pm ET*
- Examining the Youth Mental Health Collapse: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "Mind the Children: How to Think About the Youth Mental Health Collapse." June 18 at 12pm ET
- <u>The BARR Model: Leveraging Existing Resources to Promote Student</u> <u>Success:</u> As schools nationwide face challenges with attendance, literacy, and student wellness, and this webinar with the Hunt Institute and the BARR Center will explore how system transformation and strong student relationships can support holistic success and disrupt traditional school models. *June 18 at 2pm ET*
- 8. <u>On The Floor of Congress This Week</u>
  - <u>Senate floor</u>: Consideration of nominations

- <u>House floor</u>:
  - <u>**H.R. 2096**</u> Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act (Sponsored by Rep. Garbarino / Oversight and Government Reform Committee)
  - <u>H.R. 884</u> To prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia and to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022. (Sponsored by Rep. Pfluger / Oversight and Government Reform Committee)
  - <u>S. 331</u> HALT Fentanyl Act (Sponsored by Sen. Cassidy / Energy and Commerce Committee)
  - <u>H.R. 2056</u> District of Columbia Federal Immigration Compliance Act of 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Higgins / Oversight and Government Reform Committee)
  - <u>H.R. 4</u> Rescissions Act of 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Scalise / Appropriations Committee)

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

10. <u>About BPAG</u>

## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

#### **IDEA**

#### DISABILITY EXPERTS LOOK AT TRUMP EO ON DISPARATE IMPACT

On May 27, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) hosted a webinar titled, "Protecting Disabled Students Part 2: What Is Disparate Impact and Why Do We Need It?" The event addressed the implications of the April 23 executive order (EO) titled, "Restoring Equality Of Opportunity And Meritocracy," which seeks to eliminate the use of disparate impact liability across federal agencies. Disparate impact allows marginalized groups, including students with disabilities, to challenge policies that have discriminatory effects without needing to prove intentsuch as the absence of captioning in pre-recorded class materials. Panelists, including Sam Bagenstos (professor of social policy at the University of Michigan and former general council at the Department Of Health And Human Services), Katy Neas (CEO of The Arc Of The United States), and Elijah Armstrong (founder of Equal Opportunities For Students), expressed concern that while the EO mainly targets race-based civil rights protections, its broad language and administrative signaling could weaken enforcement of protections for students with disabilities under laws like the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Bagenstos emphasized that while the EO lacks immediate legal power, it could foster a chilling effect, leading agencies or schools to ignore disparate impact requirements. Neas highlighted how the EO compounds other recent actions—like mass firings at the US Department of Education and attempts to dismantle the agency-that collectively undermine civil rights enforcement. Armstrong shared his personal experiences to show how the inability to cite disparate impact creates ambiguity and undermines advocacy. Panelists agreed that both K-12 and higher education students would be affected, particularly in areas like discipline, accommodations, and program accessibility. The speakers stressed the importance of continued advocacy at all levels, participation in public comment processes, and grassroots organizing to defend existing civil rights laws. They called on communities to stay informed and vigilant to protect the fragile gains in disability rights and

educational equity. AAPD's "protecting disabled students part 1" webinar can be viewed <u>here</u>, and last week's part 2 webinar can be viewed <u>here</u>.

Back to top

#### 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

After some comments from Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought suggesting that a comprehensive FY 2026 budget request might not be released by the White House until the "<u>One Big Beautiful Bill Act</u>" is enacted, the budget request was released via various agency web sites last Friday evening. While the request fills in some gaps left by the "skinny budget" released weeks ago, some detail is still missing. Regardless, education advocates have a good sense of the White House's wish list for the upcoming fiscal year at the Department of Education (ED).

House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) has already started marking up FY 2026 spending bills. The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill isn't scheduled for action until late July, and many question whether it will see formal Committee consideration at all. While the White House is unlikely to get many of its requests for education spending fulfilled in a final FY 2026 spending bill, education advocates expect a difficult spending debate and are mobilizing allies.

In other appropriations news, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) has officially introduced legislation to enact the White House's so-called rescissions package, which would claw back \$9.4 billion in FY 2025 funds. The measure, which includes slashing \$8.3 billion in foreign aid and \$1.1 billion for public broadcasting, will head to the House Rules Committee on Tuesday afternoon. It could see floor consideration soon thereafter. This effort is constrained to some **complicated legislative rules**, but is important to fiscal hawks.

Advocates are tracking so many spending issues: the release of final FY 2025 spending allocations by federal agencies; the FY 2026 spending bill process; the rescission package; and the reconciliation package. June will be full of action and advocacy.

### How does this impact State School Board Associations?

On the President's budget request: The request proposes deep cuts to the Department of Education, signaling a desire for a significant shift in federal priorities for education spending. It would cut ED funding by 15%--a \$12.4 billion reduction that would leave the agency with \$66.7 billion to support its programs. To lend some perspective to this proposal, the FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill that was approved by the House Appropriations Committee last summer, but was so unpalatable it never saw a floor vote, would have cut ED funding to \$67.9 billion. While the politics of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress are different, a spending bill that adhered to the levels proposed by the White House might not again make it through the House and would not win the support it needs to pass the Senate.

The administration argues that the proposed budget streamlines federal education efforts, eliminates duplication, and returns more authority to states and local communities. Critics contend that the reductions would undercut essential programs that support students and schools nationwide, particularly in under-resourced communities.

For K-12 education specifically, the budget proposes level funding for the main Title I grant but eliminates funding for the other Title I programs that support literacy and migrant students.

Overall, funding for Title I programs would be cut by \$701 million (4%). The request also proposes to consolidate and cut 18 K-12 programs and create a new \$2 billion formula grant that represents a \$4.5 billion (69%) cut. Programs such as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs, the Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program, and Title II investments in educator development are among the programs that would be folded into the new grant program. Secretary of Education McMahon faced a number of questions about this new "flexible" spending program when she appeared before House and Senate lawmakers this week, with Republicans and Democrats questioning whether the envisioned program would meet the needs of states, districts and schools.

The request would also fold almost all current funding for special education into a new "Special Education Simplified Funding program," freezing total special education funding. The budget maintains grants for infants and toddlers as a separate program, as well as support for the Special Olympics, while everything else would be funded via the main grants to states. It is interesting to note that the request does not specifically say that special education programs would be moved to the Health and Human Services Department, as has been recommended by the Secretary and others. The budget request does include one proposed increase: The Charter Schools Program would see a \$60 million boost if President Trump had his way.

Back to top.

#### 3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington CATO EXPLORES DEBATE ON PARENTAL RIGHTS POLICY INTERSECTION

On May 29, the Cato Institute hosted a conference exploring the evolving debate over parental rights, particularly as they intersect with education, health care, and government authority. The first panel, "Parental rights: What do they include? Where do they end?", featured legal and philosophical perspectives from James Dwyer of the William & Mary Law School, Melissa Moschella of the University of Notre Dame, and Tiffany Justice, cofounder of Moms for Liberty. Panelists debated the distinction between parental authority and rights, the role of religious values in legal interpretations, and the government's role in defining a child's "best interest." Questions were raised about gender-affirming care, school name-use policies, homeschooling oversight, and the potential return of child apprenticeships. The second panel, "Educational Freedom: Have We Hit Escape Velocity? Is that good?" featured Michael Bindas from the Institute for Justice, John Valant from the Brookings Institution, and Neal McCluskey from the Cato Institute. Panelists evaluated the momentum behind school choice and its implications for educational equity and innovation. Parental control was championed as vital to liberty and diversity, though concerns were also raised about equity gaps, particularly considering historical and global examples. The panel debated whether education savings accounts (ESAs) and vouchers would create disparities or foster meaningful reform beyond the traditional public-private model. In the final session, Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC) outlined her efforts to codify parental rights through the proposed Family Rights and Responsibilities Act and the Parents Bill of Rights. While she argued for limited federal involvement in education, she also emphasized the need for federal protections of parental authority. In response to a question about Title IX, Foxx firmly opposed allowing transgender athletes to compete on teams that align with their gender identity. The conference revealed deep tensions between federalism, individual liberty, and evolving cultural norms in education and child welfare. The full agenda and a recording of the event are **here**.

#### AEI RESEARCHERS EXAMINE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM SINCE PANDEMIC

On May 30, The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an event titled, "Addressing the Attendance Crisis: New Research on Chronic Absenteeism Since the Pandemic." During the event, education researchers presented nine new studies examining the persistent and widespread problem of chronic absenteeism in American schools since the COVID-19 pandemic. The event highlighted that chronic absenteeism—defined as missing 10% or more of the school year—rose from 15.1% in 2019 to a peak of 28.5% in 2022, before slightly improving to 23.5% in 2024. The issue now affects a broader group of students, including those who previously had strong attendance records. In states like Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia, absenteeism has increased dramatically, and two-thirds of chronically absent students had not been chronically absent before the pandemic. The data revealed stark disparities across income, racial, and academic lines. Absenteeism is most prevalent among low-income, mobile, and homeless students, but even gifted students and those from historically higher-attending groups are missing more school. Absences are particularly concentrated in kindergarten and 12th grade, as well as around Mondays, Fridays, and school breaks. Researchers cited several leading causes: student disengagement, illness (including long-term effects of COVID), family responsibilities, and growing mental health challenges like sleep deprivation among adolescents. Importantly, the event emphasized that student absenteeism is highly predictable early in the school year. Researchers urged schools and districts to adopt early-warning systems, conduct family outreach, and leverage predictive models—some of which are being made freely available—to identify at-risk students. While the impact of absenteeism on academic performance has slightly diminished since COVID, the overall rise in missed school days means learning loss remains significant. Each 10-day increase in absences reduces test scores by about 4% of a standard deviation. The event concluded with a call to "reset" educational expectations, warning that pandemic-era policies like relaxed grading and attendance standards may undermine academic recovery. The full agenda and a recording of the event are here.

#### SENATE APPROPRIATORS HEAR FROM MCMAHON ON FY26 ED BUDGET

On Tuesday, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies <u>held a hearing</u> to examine the Department of Education's (ED) FY 2026 budget request. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon defended a proposed 15.3% cut in discretionary spending, asserting it would streamline bureaucracy, expand parental and state control, and focus on core academic outcomes. Chair Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and other Republicans supported block grants, charter school expansion, and early literacy initiatives, but expressed concern over TRIO program eliminations and reduced civil rights enforcement. Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and several Democrats sharply criticized the ED's lack of transparency regarding FY 2025 fund allocations (which still haven't been shared with Capitol Hill) and proposed cuts to Pell Grants, mental health services, and education research. Secretary McMahon said proposed reforms prioritize accountability, student loan repayment, and a shift from debt forgiveness to workforce-aligned outcomes. Lawmakers debated the future of TRIO and GEAR UP programs, federal oversight of higher education, support for HBCUs and rural schools, and the Department's handling of DEI and civil rights protections. Senators across party lines questioned the proposed rescission of over 200 mental health grants and the downsizing of the

Office for Civil Rights, particularly in addressing antisemitism and campus intimidation. While McMahon argued for efficiency and state empowerment, Democrats warned the cuts would dismantle essential services and compromise vulnerable students. The hearing underscored deep divisions over the federal role in education, accountability versus access, and the Trump administration's efforts to reshape the Department's mission and funding priorities. Witness testimony and a recording of the hearing are **here**; a summary prepared by BPAG is **here**.

#### HOUSE EDUCATION PANEL HEARS FROM MCMAHON ON ED POLICIES, PRIORITIES

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce held a contentious hearing with Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to examine the policies and priorities of the Department of Education (ED). The hearing revealed deep partisan divisions. Republicans largely praised the Trump Administration's efforts to reduce the federal role in education, return control to states, expand school choice, and investigate antisemitism on college campuses. Democrats criticized the Administration for rolling back student protections, slashing funding for higher education, workforce development, and mental health, and weakening the Office for Civil Rights. Secretary McMahon defended a vision to "Make American Education Great Again" by streamlining federal oversight and prioritizing accountability, state flexibility, and parental empowerment. She voiced strong support for charter schools, vocational education, and capping Parent PLUS loans to address student debt. Heated exchanges arose over the Department's assertions regarding "viewpoint diversity" with various higher education institutions in recent correspondence to justify investigations into universities, its dismantling of programs like TRIO and Adult Education, and its reluctance to fully release appropriated funds. Democrats raised concerns about the elimination of equity-focused initiatives and insufficient support for lowincome students, students with disabilities, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Republicans celebrated Administration efforts around empowering parents, reducing bureaucracy, and enhancing career readiness. Members questioned the Secretary on issues including gun violence, DEI programs, civil rights enforcement, foreign influence in universities, and the Administration's goal of eliminating the Department of Education. Secretary McMahon reiterated that the Department remains committed to compliance with the law, shifting decisionmaking closer to families, and holding institutions accountable. In closing, Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) warned that the Administration's agenda would deepen inequities and hinder educational progress, while Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI) defended the Administration's reforms as necessary to return education to local control and improve outcomes. Witness testimony and a recording of the hearing are here, and a summary of the hearing prepared by BPAG is here.

#### HELP COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOMINEES

On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee <u>held a</u> <u>hearing</u> on two Trump administration nominees for the Department of Education. Dr. Penny Schwinn, nominated for Deputy Secretary of Education, emphasized her commitment to returning education authority to the states, improving student outcomes, and reducing federal bureaucracy. She highlighted her record of expanding literacy, STEM, and career readiness programs in Tennessee, as well as her alignment with President Trump's priorities, such as school choice and curbing divisive content in classrooms. Schwinn also addressed concerns about the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), pledging to ensure compliance with statutory obligations, including the timely release of the *Condition of Education* report and the administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Kimberly Richey, nominated for Assistant

Secretary for Civil Rights, focused on enforcing civil rights laws—particularly Title VI and Title IX—to protect students from discrimination. She was challenged by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) on whether her stance on Title IX has changed since her tenure as Acting Assistant Secretary in 2021, when she was tasked with implementing the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which ruled it illegal to discriminate against someone in the workplace for being gay or transgender. Richey suggested that she would make enforcement decisions consistent with that precedent. She also expressed a commitment to addressing anti-Semitism and preserving the rights of women and girls in educational settings. However, Richey faced scrutiny over the Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) significant case backlog and staffing reductions, with Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) questioning how these cuts would affect the agency's ability to protect students' civil rights. Richey acknowledged the challenges and emphasized the need for strategic planning to address both the backlog and resource constraints.

#### HOUSE WORKFORCE PANEL HEARS FROM LABOR SEC. CHAVEZ-DEREMER

On Thursday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce held an oversight hearing focused on the Department of Labor's (DOL) policies and priorities under Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, with several discussions intersecting with education and workforce development policy. Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI) emphasized the need to address the skills gap through education pathways that better align with labor market needs. He voiced support for expanding Pell Grant eligibility to students in short-term, high-quality workforce training programs and praised bipartisan progress on this front. Walberg also applauded Secretary Chavez-DeRemer's focus on practical training, apprenticeships, and direct engagement with workers and employers. In her testimony, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer underscored her commitment to workforce development by referencing visits to training sites like electrical worker facilities and aviation mechanic programs. She announced plans to eliminate the Job Corps program, citing safety concerns and cost inefficiencies, and proposed replacing it with state-driven "Make America Skilled Again" grants to streamline and modernize workforce training. Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) pushed back strongly against the proposed elimination of Job Corps, defending it as a vital, bipartisan program that supports low-income youth with education, training, and housing. He cited data showing nearly 80% of Job Corps graduates achieve positive outcomes and highlighted students from the Potomac Job Corps Center in attendance as evidence of the program's value. Scott also expressed concern over proposed budget cuts to labor enforcement, questioning how a 33% reduction could improve outcomes in wage theft, child labor prevention, and workplace safety—areas that directly impact educational and training environments for young workers. Both parties recognized the importance of aligning education and workforce policy, but clashed over the best mechanisms to do so, with Republicans advocating for state flexibility and consolidation, and Democrats defending federal programs like Job Corps as critical to upward mobility and opportunity. Witness testimony and a recording of the hearing is here.

Back to top.

#### 4. New Publications

<u>The Future of Youth Development: Building Out-of-School-Time (OST) Systems and</u> <u>Strengthening Programs</u>

National Academies (May 2025)

This interactive report explores the effectiveness of OST programs, their role in youth development, and key recommendations for strengthening their sustainability and quality.

How Apprenticeship Programs Could Help Fill In-Demand Jobs

U.S. Government Accountability Office (May 29, 2025)

This Q&A examines earn-and-learn opportunities, which can give individuals a mix of work experience and instruction on in-demand skills—while they earn a wage.

Back to top.

5. In the News Out-of-School Programs Play an Outsized Role in Child Development The 74 (May 29, 2025)

What's Happening to Federal Money for Teacher Training Education Week (June 3, 2025)

From Vouchers to a Cellphone Ban, This Year's Lawmaking Session Brought Transformative Changes to Texas Schools The Texas Tribune (June 3, 2025)

**Education Researchers Struggle to Pick Up the Pieces After Trump Cuts** *The Hill (June 4, 2025)* 

**Trump Pause on Visa Appointments Worries Districts Relying on Foreign Teachers** *K-12 Dive (June 4, 2025)* 

In Emergency Appeal, Trump Asks Supreme Court to Let Him Gut Education Department USA Today (June 6, 2025)

Back to top.

#### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

#### 6. Weekly Calendar

#### Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Hearing: Screentime in Schools
Subject: The House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education will hold a hearing on screentime in schools.
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Contact: Live stream available <u>here.</u>

#### Webinar: High-Quality K-12 STEM Instruction

**Subject:** The Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion on "Promoting High-Quality K-12 STEM Instruction to Prepare Students for the Future."

**Participants:** John Pecore, professor of teaching, leadership and research, University of West Florida, president, Association for Science Teacher Education; Michael Hansen, senior fellow, Brown Center on Education Policy; Jennifer Childress Self, program manager for science and engineering, WestEd; and Latrenda Knighten, president, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Time: 12:30 p.m. Contact: Register here.

#### Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mark-up: House Appropriations Committee on FY26 Agriculture Appropriations bill Subject: The full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark-up the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture and related agencies bill. Time: 10:00 a.m. Contact: Live stream available here.

# Hearing: Policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Subject: The House Agriculture Committee will receive testimony from USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins.
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Live stream available <u>here.</u>

#### Thursday, June 12, 2025

Hearing: Aging Out is Not a Plan: Reimagining Futures for Foster Youth
Subject: The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work & Welfare will hold a hearing on foster youth.
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Live stream available <u>here.</u>

#### Hearing: A Hearing with Sanctuary State Governors

Subject: The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will have a hearing with "sanctuary" state governors in the Capitol.Time: 10:00 a.m.Contact: Live stream available <u>here.</u>

Back to top.

#### 7. Future Hearings and Events

#### Monday, June 16, 2025

Webinar: Can the President Shut Down the Department of Education?

**Subject:** The Federalist Society's Regulatory Transparency Project will host a virtual panel discussion on "Can the President Shut Down the Department of Education?" **Participants:** Jonathan Butcher, Will Skillman fellow in education, The Heritage Foundation; Robert S. Eitel, president and co-founder, Defense of Freedom Institute, former senior counselor to the Secretary of Education; Michael J. Petrilli, president, Thomas B. Fordham Institute; David Randall, director of research, National Association of Scholars; and Kent D. Talbert, former acting general counsel and deputy general counsel, U.S. Department of Education. **Time:** 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Register here.

#### Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Webinar: Examining the Youth Mental Health Collapse

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "Mind the Children: How to Think About the Youth Mental Health Collapse." Time: 12:00 p.m. Contact: Register here.

# Webinar: The Hunt Institute-- The BARR Model: Leveraging Existing Resources to Promote Student Success

**Subject**: As schools nationwide face challenges with attendance, literacy, and student wellness, and this webinar with the Hunt Institute and the BARR Center will explore how system transformation and strong student relationships can support holistic success and disrupt traditional school models.

**Panelists:** Dr. Jaalil Hart, K-12 director, the Hunt Institute; Angela Jerabek, executive Director, BARR Center; the Honorable Kirsten Baesler, superintendent of public instruction, North Dakota Department of Education; Dr. Shannon Mortrud, principal, Fargo South High School, North Dakota.

Time: 2:00 p.m. Contact: Register <u>here.</u>

Back to top.

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

#### Senate Floor:

Consideration of nominations

#### **House Floor:**

**H.R. 2096** – Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act (Sponsored by Rep. Garbarino / Oversight and Government Reform Committee)

H.R. 884 – To prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia and to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022. (Sponsored by Rep. Pfluger / Oversight and Government Reform Committee)
 S. 331 – HALT Fentanyl Act (Sponsored by Sen. Cassidy / Energy and Commerce Committee)
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H.R. 4 – Rescissions Act of 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Scalise / Appropriations Committee)

Back to top.

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

U.S. House and Senate 2025 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**

Back to top.

#### 10. About BPAG

<u>Bose Public Affairs Group</u> 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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