



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

**JULY 7, 2025**

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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**

- **Funding**

- **Trump Admin Withholds \$6.8 Billion in K-12 Federal Funding:** On Monday, the Trump administration informed state education agencies that it would withhold nearly \$6.8 billion in federal K-12 education funding legally due on July 1.

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **White House Launches National Pledge on AI Education:** On Monday, more than 60 organizations became inaugural signers of the White House’s “Pledge to America’s Youth: Investing in AI Education,” an initiative supporting President Trump’s executive order on “Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for America’s Youth.”
- **Ed Tech Leaders Share Insights on Technology-Enhanced Instruction:** On Tuesday, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading hosted a webinar exploring how technology-enhanced instruction can support students with learning differences in early education settings.

4. **New Publications**

- **Preparing Rural Students for College and Beyond by Improving Access to Coursework**

*Center for American Progress (June 2025)*

The report finds that to better prepare rural students for postsecondary opportunities, federal and state policymakers must increase rural access to high-quality, rigorous coursework.

## 5. **In the News**

- **‘None of Us Were Worrying About This’: Trump’s Latest School Money Move has State Authorities Scrambling**  
*Politico (July 2, 2025)*
- **Trump Administration Tells States It’s Freezing \$6.8 Billion for K-12 School Programs**  
*News From The States (July 1, 2025)*
- **Don Bacon Won’t Seek Reelection in Competitive Nebraska District**  
*The Hill (June 30, 2025)*
- **Vulnerable North Carolina GOP Sen. Thom Tillis Will Not Seek Reelection**  
*Roll Call (June 29, 2025)*
- **White House Seeks to Cut Nation’s Only Federal After-School Program**  
*The Washington Post (June 28, 2025)*
- **Lower Courts Overstepped in Nationwide Injunction on Birthright Order**  
*The 74 Million (June 27, 2025)*

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

- **Online Age Verification and Privacy and Youth Online Safety:** The Cato Institute will hold a virtual discussion on "What Would Online Age Verification Mean for Speech, Privacy, and Youth Online Safety?"  
*Tuesday at 12pm ET*
- **Designing for Connection: How Technology Can Power Learning in Homes and Communities:** The Campaign for Grade Level Reading will hold a webinar on how technology in homes and communities can support learning.  
*Tuesday at 3pm ET*
- **Conflict between Trump Administration and States on Education Policy:** The Brennan Center for Justice will hold a virtual discussion on "The Trouble Between Trump and the States on Education Policy."  
*Wednesday at 4pm ET*
- **Freeing Kids and Teens from Smartphones:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual discussion on "The Tech Exit: A Practical Guide to Freeing Kids and Teens from Smartphones."  
*Wednesday at 5pm ET*
- **Senate Appropriations FY26 Ag/FDA, Leg Branch, CJS Bills:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026"; the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026"; and the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026."  
*Thursday at 9:30am ET*

- **Student Perspectives on Public Education**: The Center for American Progress will hold a webinar on "Student Perspectives on Public Education's Value and Impact," with students from the class of 2025.  
*Thursday at 2pm ET*

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

- **Senate floor**: Consideration of nominations
- **House floor**: In recess

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

9. **About BPAG**

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## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### FUNDING

#### ADMIN WITHHOLDS \$6.8 BILLION IN K-12 FEDERAL FUNDING

On Monday, the Trump administration **informed** state education agencies that it would withhold nearly \$6.8 billion in federal K-12 education funding legally due on July 1. The withheld funds were designated for key programs including migrant education (\$375 million), educator professional development (\$2.2 billion), English-learner services (\$890 million), academic enrichment (\$1.3 billion), and before- and after-school programs (\$1.4 billion). An additional \$729 million for adult basic and literacy education was also delayed. The Education Department (ED) stated, "Decisions have not been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year," effectively blocking the release of Grant Award Notifications. This move arguably enacts the administration's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget priorities a year ahead of schedule, bypassing congressional approval. States and thousands of school districts that had budgeted these funds for staff salaries, vendor contracts, curriculum, and technology now face abrupt shortfalls. The **Council of Chief State School Officers** emphasized the urgent need for these funds to support summer programming and preparations for the coming school year. House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) **condemned** the Trump administration's withholding of the funds. She criticized the action as worsening the existing strain on public schools, citing growing class sizes and overworked, underpaid teachers. The administration has directed all inquiries to the Office of Management and Budget. The decision follows weeks of speculation that the administration would "impound" funds targeting programs it opposes. Under federal law, the executive branch is generally prohibited from withholding congressionally appropriated funds without legislative approval. Lawsuits challenging the move are expected.

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The House of Representatives successfully passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on July 3, sending it to President Donald Trump for signature a day before their self-imposed Independence Day deadline. While Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) initially seemed concerned it might not pass after the Senate made significant changes to the version of the bill the House passed

in May, by Wednesday, it was obvious he had the votes while Democrats spent time on the floor warning of what they consider to be the terrible consequences of the measure. The House passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act at 2:31PM by a vote of 218-214.

Before the Senate passed the bill, there were changes to the new voucher program in the bill. The new tax credit is permanent, and now unlimited. There is no federal ceiling on how much can be spent. Republicans removed the \$4 billion volume cap on the total amount of donations. The current language also limits the amount a donor can get a tax credit on. Any individual can donate to a voucher nonprofit for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit worth \$1,700 (rather than 10% of adjusted gross income originally). There is also no tax shelter that allows for a donation of stock or marketable securities. The Senate removed the provision asserting that there shall be no Federal control over private or religious schools, opening the door to federal regulation of schools funded with federal vouchers. The bill provides broad authority for the Secretary of Treasury to regulate the program, including explicit authority to regulate scholarship granting organizations and opening the door to regulate private schools. Lastly, there is no longer a mandate that states have a voucher program. States can voluntarily choose whether to set up voucher nonprofits (or scholarship granting organizations as they are referred to in the bill). The voucher nonprofits can only administer school vouchers within their state and States can regulate them and the private schools they work with.

In other significant news during what was supposed to be a Congressional recess and short holiday week, on July 1, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) withheld almost \$7 billion in federal K–12 grants that Congress approved in March and that were expected for distribution at the start of the fiscal year. While there was some reporting on this situation the week prior, many states were surprised to learn of the decision this week. The freeze affects key programs: Title II teacher training (\$2.2 billion), after-school programs (\$1.4 billion), Title IV, Part A academic enrichment initiatives (\$1.3 billion), English-Learner support (\$890 million), and migrant education (\$375 million). OMB officials justify the hold by stating they are reviewing whether funds are being used to promote policies inconsistent with the White House's priorities, though no final determinations have been issued and no timeline has been shared. Education advocates warn that the delay—characterized by some as an illegal executive impoundment—threatens to disrupt staffing, programming, and educational services nationwide. Attorneys general and others are reportedly considering legal options to force the release of the funds appropriated by Congress.

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

The expansion of a permanent, uncapped federal tax credit voucher program could significantly redirect funds away from public schools by incentivizing private donations to scholarship organizations, especially if states choose to participate and create parallel private education infrastructures. Second, the OMB's decision to withhold nearly \$7 billion in congressionally approved K–12 funds, targeting vital programs like teacher training, afterschool services, and support for English learners and migrant students, poses an immediate threat to public school operations. The rationale for the freeze raises concerns about executive overreach and the politicization of education funding.

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

#### **WHITE HOUSE LAUNCHES NATIONAL PLEDGE ON AI EDUCATION**

On Monday, more than 60 organizations became inaugural signers of the White House’s “Pledge to America’s Youth: Investing in AI Education,” an initiative supporting President Trump’s executive order on “Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for America’s Youth.” These organizations have committed to providing resources for students and educators over the next four years. Their contributions include funding and grants, educational materials and curricula, technology and tools, teacher professional development programs, workforce development resources, and technical expertise and mentorship. This collaborative effort—coordinated with the White House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Education—aims to make AI education accessible to K–12 students nationwide, spark curiosity in AI, and prepare future generations for an AI-driven economy. Key administration officials emphasized the significance of the pledge: Michael Kratsios, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, underscored that fostering youth interest in AI is “crucial to maintaining American technological dominance;” Secretary of Education Linda McMahon highlighted the momentum behind responsible AI use in education, stating that pledged resources will help integrate AI into classrooms; Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer stressed the need to equip the next generation with AI literacy to lead in the evolving economy; Secretary of Energy Chris Wright reaffirmed the nation’s commitment to “win the AI race;” Brian Stone, performing the duties of the NSF director, called youth AI education an investment in a “more innovative, prosperous, and informed future;” and Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins noted efforts to integrate AI into agricultural education through targeted training and grant programs. The administration plans to announce new grants, programs, and technologies tied to the Pledge over the coming year.

#### **ED TECH LEADERS SHARE INSIGHTS ON TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED INSTRUCTION**

On Tuesday, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading hosted a webinar exploring how technology-enhanced instruction can support students with learning differences in early education settings. The panel of Learning & Engagement Opportunities speakers included university researchers, technology policy experts, and school administrators, each discussing how school leaders can reimagine educational technology (EdTech) to accelerate equitable learning recovery and improve reading outcomes. The discussion emphasized how schools can leverage open-access platforms to modernize instructional planning, particularly for students with learning disabilities. Panelists stressed the importance of ongoing research to ensure assistive technologies are tailored to individual student needs. For example, teachers should adapt technology applications based on the specific learning goals of students with dyslexia versus those with ADHD. Speakers also encouraged educators to collaborate with families and community partners to navigate the growing presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in classrooms, framing it as a valuable instructional tool rather than a barrier. Beyond AI, the panel highlighted how new technologies can streamline the creation of accessible instructional materials and support assessments, allowing teachers to focus more effectively on individualized learning. Finally, panelists underscored the importance of engaging all stakeholders to fully capitalize on post-pandemic investments in technology, close reading performance gaps, and improve outcomes for all learners. More information on the event is available [here](#).

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#### 4. New Publications

##### **Preparing Rural Students for College and Beyond by Improving Access to Coursework**

*Center for American Progress (June 25, 2025)*

The report finds that to better prepare rural students for postsecondary opportunities, federal and state policymakers must increase rural access to high-quality, rigorous coursework.

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#### 5. In the News

##### **‘None of Us Were Worrying About This’: Trump’s Latest School Money Move has State Authorities Scrambling**

*Politico (July 2, 2025)*

##### **Trump Administration Tells States It’s Freezing \$6.8 Billion for K-12 School Programs**

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##### **White House Seeks to Cut Nation’s Only Federal After-School Program**

*The Washington Post (June 28, 2025)*

##### **Lower Courts Overstepped in Nationwide Injunction on Birthright Order**

*The 74 Million (June 27, 2025)*

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### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

#### 6. Weekly Calendar

##### **Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

##### **Webinar: Online Age Verification and Privacy and Youth Online Safety**

**Subject:** The Cato Institute will hold a virtual discussion on "What Would Online Age Verification Mean for Speech, Privacy, and Youth Online Safety?"

**Panelists:** Graham Dufault, general counsel, ACT - The App Association; Ariel Fox Johnson, senior adviser for data privacy, Common Sense Media; Jennifer Huddleston, senior fellow, Cato Institute; and Thomas Berry, director, Cato Institute's Center for Constitutional Studies.

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Register [here.](#)

**Webinar: Designing for Connection: How Technology Can Power Learning in Homes and Communities**

**Subject:** The Campaign for Grade Level Reading will hold a webinar on how technology in homes and communities can support learning.

**Panelists:** Siran Cao, Mirza; Heejae Lim, TalkingPoints; Gabe Hakim (moderator), Promise Venture Studio; and others

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Contact:** Register [here](#).

### **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

#### **Webinar: Conflict between Trump Administration and States on Education Policy**

**Subject:** The Brennan Center for Justice will hold a virtual discussion on "The Trouble Between Trump and the States on Education Policy."

**Panelists:** Martha Dalton, journalist, Atlanta Journal Constitution; John King Jr., chancellor, State University of New York; Aaron Saiger, professor of law, Fordham University; and Alicia Bannon, director, Brennan Center Judiciary Program.

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Register [here](#).

#### **Webinar: Freeing Kids and Teens from Smartphones**

**Subject:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual discussion on "The Tech Exit: A Practical Guide to Freeing Kids and Teens from Smartphones."

**Panelists:** Christine Rosen, senior fellow, AEI; Timothy Cafney, senior fellow, AEI; and Author Clare Morell, fellow, Ethics & Public Policy Center.

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Register [here](#).

### **Thursday, July 10, 2025**

#### **Markup: Senate Appropriations FY26 AG/FDA, Leg Branch, CJS Bills**

**Subject:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026"; the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026"; and the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026."

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Contact:** Live stream available [here](#).

#### **Webinar: Student Perspectives on Public Education**

**Subject:** The Center for American Progress will hold a webinar on "Student Perspectives on Public Education's Value and Impact," with students from the class of 2025.

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Register [here](#).

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## **7. On The Floor of Congress This Week**

**Senate Floor:** Consideration of nominations

**House Floor:** In recess

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## 8. 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](#)

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## 9. 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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