



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

**JULY 25, 2022**

Jared Solomon, Editor

[jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Della Cronin, Editor

[dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

[slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com)

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

1. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**

• **IDEA**

- **ED Releases New Guidance on Supporting Students with Disabilities:**  
The Department of Education's (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) released new guidance intended to help public elementary and secondary schools fulfill their responsibilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities and avoid the discriminatory use of student discipline.

• **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment**

- **Hunt Institute and Education Leaders Discuss Teacher Retention:**  
The Hunt Institute hosted a webinar entitled "Why Educators Are Leaving the Profession and How to Stem the Tide." The conversation included educators who left the classroom as well as school system and state leaders who are working to increase support for educators, boost retention, and rebuild the workforce.

• **Child Nutrition**

- **House Democrats Introduce Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act:** On Wednesday, July 20, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chair Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) introduced a comprehensive, evidence-

driven reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs that meets the needs of children and families.

- **Department of Agriculture Hosts Keep Kids Fed Act Webinar:** Earlier this month, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service hosted a webinar for state agencies providing an overview of provisions included in the recently passed *Keep Kids Fed Act*, legislation that provided an extension of school meal waivers put in place during COVID.

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **College in High School Alliance Examines Equitable Dual Enrollment:** The College in High School Alliance held a webinar to examine research priorities for advancing equitable dual enrollment. The event primarily examined a new study from The University of Utah titled, “Research Priorities for Advancing Equitable Dual Enrollment Policy and Practice.”
- **NYC Examines Effective Use of Data, Improvement in Community Schools:** The Coalition for Community Schools and Children’s Aid National Center for Community Schools held a webinar titled, “Effectively Using Data for Continuous Improvement in Community Schools.” The event addressed the central role that data and continuous improvement play in Community Schools and the diverse voices that Community Schools engage to inform improvement.

## 4. **New Publications**

- **State Policies to Support Student-Centered Learning:** *KnowledgeWorks (July, 2022)* - The policy brief offers an analysis of policy trends, state case studies, and key considerations for those interested in a personalized, competency-based system.
- **Digging Deeper: Which types of institutions achieve excellence and equity for aspiring teachers of color?:** *National Council on Teacher Quality (July, 2022)* - This report explores which institutions achieve excellence for aspiring teachers of color, with pass rates for test takers of color that exceed the state average for all test takers; which institutions achieve equity, with little or no disparity in pass rates for test takers of color compared with white test takers; and at which types of institutions do aspiring teachers of color tend to be more successful.

## 5. **In the News**

- **Texas school shooter left trail of ominous warning signs** *AP News (July 19, 2022)*
- **Ex-Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says the Department of Education ‘should not exist’** *USA Today (July 18, 2022)*
- **Federal judge blocks Education Department’s Title IX guidance that protects transgender students** *Politico (July 16, 2022)*

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

- **Markup:** House Judiciary Committee on School Boards memorandum (*July 27*)
- **Markup:** Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on Child Privacy Bills (*July 27*)
- **Webinar:** Congress and States on Parental Rights: Promise to American’s Parents (*July 27*)
- **Webinar:** EdTech and Curriculum (*July 27*)
- **Webinar:** Congress and States on Parental Rights: The Future of Conservative Family Policy (*July 28*)

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

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

- **H.R.4346:** The legislative vehicle for the CHIPS+ bill
- **H.R. 6929:** Susan Muffley Act of 2022

9. **Bills to Watch**

- **H.R. 7309:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022
- **H.R.4521:** America COMPETES Act of 2022
- **S.1260:** United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021
- **H.R.5376:** Build Back Better Act

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

11. **About BPAG**

**1. COSSBA Policy Priorities**

**INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)**

**ED RELEASES NEW GUIDANCE ON SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

On Tuesday, July 19, the Department of education’s (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and office of special education and rehabilitative services (OSERS) released new guidance intended to help public elementary and secondary schools fulfill their responsibilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities and avoid the discriminatory use of student discipline. The new resources reflect the concern that some students with disabilities are not receiving the supports and services necessary to address their educational needs, including their disability-based behavior. The resources include an intensive report on supporting students with disabilities and avoiding discriminatory use of student discipline under section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act Of 1973* and an accompanying fact sheet; questions and answers addressing the needs of children with disabilities and the *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act’s* (IDEA) discipline provisions; a guide for stakeholders; and a letter from secretary Cardona to educators, school leaders, parents, and students. The press release and resources can be viewed [here](#).

**TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT**

**HUNT INSTITUTE AND EDUCATION LEADERS DISCUSS TEACHER RETENTION**

On Thursday, July 21, the Hunt Institute hosted a webinar entitled “Why Educators Are Leaving the Profession and How to Stem the Tide.” The conversation included educators who left the classroom as well as school system and state leaders who are working to increase support for

educators, boost retention, and rebuild the workforce. Participants included Harrison Peters, CEO of Men of Color in Education Leadership and former State Turnaround Superintendent in Providence, RI; Jonathan Song, a former special education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District; Dr. Donald Fennoy, former Palm Beach County School District Superintendent; and Dr. Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education at the Missouri Department of Education. The conversation started out by addressing many of the issues that happened during the Covid-19 pandemic. The biggest problems that panelists highlighted were the immediate move to virtual learning and the lack of a coherent strategy to deal with the pandemic at the state level or national level. This exacerbated already existing issues, as one panelist described the role of being a teacher in a Title I school as that of “miracle worker.” Several panelists described the shortage numbers as a crisis, adding that ramifications have likely not sunk in yet for policymakers or the broader public. Each panelist agreed that while salary is important, the broader issue is respect for the teaching workforce and the profession in general. Teachers must be treated as professionals and equals who are valued members of a team, as opposed to simply workers doing their job. One panelist said, “When employees feel valued, that’s when retention happens.” Additionally, as several panelists pointed out, leaders need to recognize that younger professionals entering the profession are different than their counterparts from 20 or 30 years ago, which might require shifts in management styles. Turning to long-term solutions, the panel wrapped up with a discussion of what policy solutions states and communities should be looking at. Several panelists discussed the benefits of Master-Teacher mentoring programs as well as “grow-your own” and apprentice teacher programs. There was also an intensive back-and-forth conversation over teacher certification and dramatically streamlining the process. Everyone agreed that content knowledge and certification were important, but were interested in finding better ways to demonstrate that knowledge. Finally, Dr. Vandeven discussed the [Blue Ribbon Commission](#) that Missouri has convened to make policy recommendations, which may be helpful to readers. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

## **CHILD NUTRITION**

### **HOUSE DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

On Wednesday, July 20, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chair Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) introduced a comprehensive, evidence-driven reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs that meets the needs of children and families. The *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act (H.R. 8450)* builds on Congress’ work to expand school and summer meal programs, increase access to federal nutrition programs like the special Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants, and children (WIC), and prevent child hunger. A fact sheet on H.R. 8450 can be found [here](#). A full section by section summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HOSTS KEEP KIDS FED ACT WEBINAR**

Earlier this month, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) hosted a webinar for state agencies providing an overview of provisions included in the recently passed *Keep Kids Fed Act*, legislation that provided an extension of school meal waivers put in place during COVID. USDA FNS officials also discussed additional resources

that will be available for school meal program operations during the summer and the 2022-23 school year. A recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](#)

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

Last week, the House made progress on Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro's (D-CT) ambitious goal to pass all Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 spending bills before the August recess. A six-bill "mini-bus" spending package was approved on Wednesday. The package included the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill, as well as Agriculture, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Interior, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs proposals. With just one more week on the House's legislative calendar before the scheduled recess, it seems unlikely that all spending packages will be passed by then. As the list of bills that might pass narrows, it seems even more unlikely that the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending plan, which includes the funding for most education programs, will win approval before lawmakers leave Washington, DC, for the August recess.

In the Senate, Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) had a second operation last week to address a fractured hip he suffered last month, slowing any agreements between Appropriations leadership in the House and the Senate on overall FY 2023 spending. The Senate Committee is expected to release spending proposals this week without any House-Senate agreement on topline numbers or the defense versus non-defense spending allocations.

There wasn't much news last week on the status of a would-be reconciliation package after Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) made it clear he would only support a bill that extended some Affordable Care Act subsidies and addressed lowering prescription drug prices. Even though the West Virginia lawmaker has indicated he might be open to adding provisions to the package if inflation figures improve in August, the White House and other Democratic leaders indicate that they want to pass what they can now. That means getting a bill to the House and Senate floors this week. The House is scheduled to leave town at the end of this week, but that could change if more time is needed to get the reconciliation bill on the President's desk.

The other bill that kept advocates busy last week is the latest iteration of the American COMPETES Act competitiveness legislation. About a week ago, it looked as though the Senate was poised to pass a piece of legislation that invested \$52 billion in relief for the semiconductor industry, leaving thousands of pages of legislative efforts to address the country's competitiveness out. Over last weekend, however, Senator Todd Young (R-IN) and others told Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) that the smaller package would win more Republican votes if it included provisions that update the National Science Foundation. A procedural vote confirmed that assertion, and the Senate is expected to approve a package this week that will address the needs of the semiconductor industry, create a new directorate at the National Science Foundation and address some Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education needs. Advocates who worked with the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on their section of the larger competitiveness bill were disappointed that the proposals to create a K-12 computer science program and a new STEM pathways effort will not be part of the package that is expected to pass.

Members of Congress, staff, and advocates are facing another busy week starting Monday, but just about everyone has August 5<sup>th</sup> circled on their calendar. That's the date that the Senate will leave for Congress—one week after their House colleagues escape the heat of Washington, DC.

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

Decisions on overall spending levels and the final process for the FY 2023 appropriation's bills will ultimately determine how much money is allocated for the Department of Education and the programs that provide critical support at the district and school level. While the ongoing negotiations for the America COMPETES Act look like K-12 education programs will not be included, some investment in STEM education programs will likely go forward benefiting American students.

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

#### **COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL ALLIANCE EXAMINES EQUITABLE DUAL ENROLLMENT**

On Wednesday, July 20, The College in High School Alliance held a webinar to examine research priorities for advancing equitable dual enrollment. Panelists included Jason Taylor, associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah; Mike Beam, assistant vice president for school partnerships at the Advance College Project at Indiana University; Xiaodan Hu, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education at Northern Illinois University; Julie Edmunds, program director for secondary school reform at SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; John Fink, senior research associate for the Community College Research Center at Columbia University; and Joel Vargas, vice president of programs at Jobs for the Future (JFF). The event primarily examined a new study from The University of Utah titled, “Research Priorities for Advancing Equitable Dual Enrollment Policy and Practice,” which was authored by several panel participants, including Taylor, Hu, Edmunds, and Fink. Intended to address a decline in postsecondary enrollments due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the report underscored the evidence-based practice of dual enrollment and similar programs that have positive impacts on student outcomes, including college enrollment and completion. The study's authors outlined its key takeaways, which include:

- 1) About nine percent of high school students are enrolled in college each year, a number that shows “no sign of slowing down,” according to the report;
- 2) Dual enrollment is evidence-based with broad positive impacts;
- 3) Dual enrollment expands learning opportunities and college access and can improve local communities;
- 4) Dual enrollment addresses increased demand for college-level education;
- 5) These programs have broad support from students, families, schools, and policymakers; and
- 6) Dual enrollment programs require intentional alignment and integration with secondary and postsecondary systems.

Given these key takeaways, report authors advise the prioritization of research on equity and justice; influence on access and outcomes; refining outcome measures; expanded research on student experience; and the pursuit of emerging research topics. “What research at early colleges



can really help do is help policymakers and researchers think about what else needs to be in place besides just the college courses to make sure you have a successful dual enrollment program,” Edmunds added. Similarly, Beam spoke to the connection between practice and research saying, “For many decades, the practice far outpaced the research... but instead, research should be stretching the practice forward.” The University of Utah study can viewed [here](#).

#### **NYC EXAMINES EFFECTIVE USE OF DATA, IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

On Thursday, July 21, the Coalition for Community Schools and Children’s Aid National Center for Community Schools held a webinar titled, “Effectively Using Data for Continuous Improvement in Community Schools.” The event addressed the central role that data and continuous improvement play in Community Schools and the diverse voices that Community Schools engage to inform improvement. The webinar featured a diverse group of experts, including Bianca del Rio, executive director of University-Assisted Community School Programs at the Netter Center for Community Partnerships; Elisa English, chief program officer of Counseling in Schools; Abe Fernández, director of Children’s Aid National Center for Community Schools; Dr. Neil Harris, principal of A-Tech High School in New York City; Anna Maier, senior policy advisor and researcher for the Learning Policy Institute; Monica Medina, Ph.D., clinical associate professor in the School of Education at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI); José Muñoz, director of the Coalition for Community Schools; Kayla Patrick, special assistant for the Office of Planning Evaluation and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education; and Sarah Peterson, senior director of attendance, research and innovation at the NYC Department of Education. Maier kicked off the event by highlighting results from a Learning Policy Institute Community School [evidence review](#) from 2017, as well as a RAND Corporation [assessment](#) of the impact of the New York City Community Schools Initiative from 2020. Following Maier, Medina focused on defining “community,” best ways to examine Community School data, and the importance of collaboration. “What’s very important is developing authentic partnerships and sometimes bringing people to the table that you wouldn’t otherwise think about,” Medina said. Peterson examined New York City’s exceptional success with Community Schools, highlighting the city’s Community School system’s growth from 45 schools at inception to over 400 schools come 2023. Peterson also examined data from the RAND Corporation assessment showing the significance of staff and educator collaboration around student needs, which reduced chronic absenteeism and improved student outcomes. Harris followed with his experience at A-Tech High School and provided the audience with strategies on how to develop similar models in their schools.

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#### **4. New Publications**

##### **State Policies to Support Student-Centered Learning**

*KnowledgeWorks* (July, 2022)

The policy brief offers an analysis of policy trends, state case studies, and key considerations for those interested in a personalized, competency-based system. It also explores the existing foundation of student-centered learning policies by providing information on every state’s policy in three categories: assessment of student mastery; flexible governance; and student-centered learning frameworks.

## Digging Deeper: Which types of institutions achieve excellence and equity for aspiring teachers of color?

*National Council on Teacher Quality* (July, 2022)

This report explores which institutions achieve excellence for aspiring teachers of color, with pass rates for test takers of color that exceed the state average for all test takers; which institutions achieve equity, with little or no disparity in pass rates for test takers of color compared with white test takers; and at which types of institutions do aspiring teachers of color tend to be more successful.

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### 5. In the News

#### Texas school shooter left trail of ominous warning signs

*AP News* (July 19, 2022)

#### Ex-Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says the Department of Education ‘should not exist’

*USA Today* (July 18, 2022)

#### Federal judge blocks Education Department’s Title IX guidance that protects transgender students

*Politico* (July 16, 2022)

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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### 6. Weekly Calendar

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

#### **Monday, July 25, 2022**

None.

#### **Tuesday, July 26, 2022**

None.

#### **Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

##### **Markup: House Judiciary Committee on School Boards memorandum (E&S)**

**Subject:** The House Judiciary Committee will hold a markup of H.Res. 1238, requesting the president to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the attorney general entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff"; H.Res. 1239, directing the attorney general to provide certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the attorney general entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff.”

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

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



**Markup: Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on Child Privacy Bills (E&S)**

**Subject:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a markup of S. 1628, the "Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act"; and S. 3663, the "Kids Online Safety Act."

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

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

**Webinar: Congress and States on Parental Rights (E&S)**

**Subject:** The Heritage Foundation will hold a discussion on "Promise to America's Parents: How Congress and the States Can Protect Parental Rights."

**Participants:** Ginny Gentles, director, Independent Women's Forum's Education Freedom Center; Cathi Herrod, president, Center for Arizona Policy; Emilie Kao, senior counsel and vice president of advocacy strategy, Alliance Defending Freedom; Joseph Kohm, director of public policy, Family Policy Alliance; and Matt Sharp, senior counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom.

**Time:** 10:00 am.

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

**Webinar: EdTech and Curriculum (E&S)**

**Subject:** The American Bar Association will hold a virtual discussion on "EdTech: Our Kids are Learning What?"

**Participants:** Sara Kloek, vice president of education and children's policy, Software & Information Industry Association; Jessica Rich, of counsel, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP; Mamie Kresses, vice president, Better Business Bureau National Programs' Children's Advertising Review Unit; and Paul Singer, partner, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP.

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

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

**Thursday, July 28, 2022**

**Webinar: Congress and States on Parental Rights (E&S)**

**Subject:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "The Future of Conservative Family Policy."

**Participants:** Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT); Robert Rector, senior research fellow, Heritage Foundation; Patrick Brown, fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center; Elaine Maag, senior fellow, Urban Institute; and Scott Winship, director of poverty studies, AEI.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

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

**Friday, July 22, 2022**

None.

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**7. Future Hearings and Events**

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## 8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

### Senate Floor:

[H.R.4346](#) – the legislative vehicle for the CHIPS+ bill

### House Floor:

[H.R. 6929](#) – Susan Muffley Act of 2022: To increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

**Possible Consideration of Legislation Related to Investing in Domestic Semiconductor Supply**

**Possible Consideration of Legislation Related to Public Safety**

## 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)

[H.R.4521](#) *America COMPETES Act of 2022*  
Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)  
(2/4/22 Passed by House; 7/19/21 Introduced in House)

[S.1260](#) *United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021*  
Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)  
(6/8/21 Passed by Senate; 4/20/21 Introduced in Senate)

[H.R.5376](#) *Build Back Better Act*  
Sponsor: Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)  
(11/22/21 passed by the House; 9/27/21 Introduced in House)

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

[U.S. House and Senate 2022 Schedule](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions](#)

[U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor](#)

[U.S. Senate Budget Committee](#)

[U.S. House Budget Committee](#)

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

## 11. About BPAG

[Bose Public Affairs Group](#) is a full-service government affairs and public relations consulting firm that has built a reputation for producing results. We partner with clients committed to excellence in education and other social services to achieve policy and advocacy success by:

- leveraging our expertise and passion;
- strategizing intelligent solutions; and,
- Creating meaningful impact.

Our team includes long-term insiders in education policy from Pre-K through higher education, innovative thinkers and savvy strategists that provide a comprehensive array of customized client services. We have the knowledge, skills, and relationships that are necessary for successful advocacy at all levels. From grassroots to grass tops and everything in between, our broad-based legislative practice approaches every project with the same degree of determination and professionalism. BPAG provides expertise in a variety of services:

- Government Relations
- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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