



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

Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment

Research in Practice: Preparing and Retaining K-12 STEM Teachers in High-Need School Districts

American Association for the Advancement of Science (July, 2022)

This publication, part of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program research track, provides a space for researchers to highlight their emerging work to inform the field to spark innovation and the adaptation of promising practices to support inclusive STEM teaching and learning in elementary and secondary schools, and in particular to support underrepresented students' access and success

• **Child Nutrition**

House Ed and Labor Committee Advances Child Nutrition Legislation

The House Education and Labor Committee advanced the *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act* (H.R. 8450) with a vote of 27-19. This comprehensive reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs includes vital provisions that expand access to school meals and more.

2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up

• **Impact on State School Board Associations**

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

- **House Judiciary Reviews resolutions on School Board Memorandum:** House On July 27, the House Judiciary Committee was scheduled to debate two House resolutions, or expressions of sentiment, that request and direct the President and the Attorney General to provide certain documents to the House relating to the **October 4, 2021 memorandum** issued by the Attorney General titled, “Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff.” Unfortunately, due to a 12 hour mark-up on a veterans immigration bill, the committee never considered these resolutions.

4. **New Publications**

5. **In the News**

- **School mask mandates return as latest coronavirus variants surge**
The Washington Post (July 27, 2022)
- **U.S. Senate panel approves update of children’s online privacy bill**
Reuters (July 27, 2022)
- **Conservative Parent Group Sues School District Over Curriculum That Discusses Race and Gender**
Education Week (July 26, 2022)
- **New Teachers Need More Support. Here’s an Easy Way to Help**
EdSurge (July 25, 2022)
- **The GOP’s school board takeover strategy is falling flat**
The Hill (July 25, 2022)

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

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

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

- **Senate Floor:** Consideration of nominees; possible consideration of *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*.
- **House Floor:** In recess until September 13.

9. **Bills to Watch**

- **H.R. 7309:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022
- **H.R.5376:** Build Back Better Act
- **H.R.8450:** Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act

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

11. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

Research in Practice: Preparing and Retaining K-12 STEM Teachers in High-Need School Districts

American Association for the Advancement of Science (July, 2022)

The National Science Foundation has been funding innovative proposals that address the critical need for recruiting, preparing, and retaining highly effective elementary and secondary mathematics and science teachers and teacher leaders in high-need school districts through the **Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program** for the past two decades. This publication, part of the program's research track, provides a space for researchers to highlight their emerging work to inform the field to spark innovation and the adaptation of promising practices to support inclusive STEM teaching and learning in elementary and secondary schools, and in particular to support underrepresented students' access and success

CHILD NUTRITION

HOUSE ED AND LABOR COMMITTEE ADVANCES CHILD NUTRITION LEGISLATION

On Wednesday, July 27, the House Education and Labor Committee advanced the **Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act** (H.R. 8450) with a vote of 27-19. This comprehensive reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs includes vital provisions that expand access to school meals; preserve the future of school meal programs; modernize the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); address food insecurity during the summer; Improve school meal capacity and sustainability; and strengthen the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The bill now advances for further consideration on the House floor. "*The Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act* takes long overdue steps to deliver on that goal by modernizing proven child nutrition programs and providing more children and families with access to nutrition assistance. This is a critical opportunity to help fulfill our basic responsibility to keep children from going hungry," said Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA).

H.R. 8450 makes many changes to the school meal programs that will be beneficial to schools including some of what's discussed below. The bill expands community eligibility certification by lowering the threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent and also creates a statewide community eligibility option. It provides more per meal funding by increasing the reimbursement rate 10 cents, increasing the multiplier for meal reimbursement from 1.6 percent to 2.5 percent, and adding commodity payments for school breakfasts. The bill also allows direct certification for families who are enrolled in Medicaid and other public benefit programs. H.R. 8450 authorizes funding for several new and existing grant programs including school meal equipment, a new scratch cooking grant program, and formally creating a summer electronic benefit program that would provide \$75 a month in support per child during summer break. Finally, the legislation also expands and improves the summer nutrition program. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) released a detailed summary of the legislation that can be accessed [here](#). To access the official documents from the House Committee, including a fact sheet and section-by-section summary of the legislation, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Given the comments shared by House Republicans on the committee, it seems unlikely this reauthorization will be successful this session. While passage of this bill out of committee is a

significant marker, since the child nutrition programs have not been reauthorized since 2010, ultimate action by the Senate and ultimate passage in to law is a long way off. Senator Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Bozeman (R-AR), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, have talked about school nutrition reauthorization but no formal legislative language or bill has been drafted or circulated. With the recent passage of the *Keep Kids Fed Act*, which extended several COVID era meal waivers and policy changes, there is even less of an impetus among Congress to reauthorize these programs.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

As of last Friday afternoon, the House was looking forward to starting its August recess, although it had a long day ahead. The Senate is looking ahead at another week of work before joining their House colleagues. Each chamber saw a lot of action last week.

In the Senate, Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) **released** all 12 annual spending bills without any markups or resolution of overall topline funding numbers. In releasing the bills, Senator Leahy said, “These bills are an investment in the American people that promote affordable housing, help families put food on the table, support the education and care of our children and young people, combat climate change, improve health care access, and invest in our communities. It is my hope that by releasing these bills, and making clear what the priorities of Senate Democrats are, we can take a step closer toward reaching a bipartisan compromise after months of stalled negotiations. The stakes of inaction are too high to not complete our work. The burden of inflation would make a long-term continuing resolution untenable with grave consequences for communities and families across the country and for our national security. It is my goal to finish our work before the end of the 117th Congress to avoid these consequences. I look forward to continuing to work with my dear friend, Vice Chairman Shelby, and I encourage good faith, bipartisan negotiations on top lines to resume with the urgency that this moment requires.”

Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) voiced his displeasure with this approach to the process, saying, “Here we go again. Like last year, Senate Democrats have unveiled partisan appropriations bills that spend billions more than even the Administration’s wasteful request. These drafts fail to appropriately allocate resources to our national defense, remove important legacy riders that enjoyed broad, bipartisan support just four months ago, and are filled with poison pills. They have even taken the drastic step of providing hundreds of millions of dollars for taxpayer-financed abortions.”

The two responses don’t set the stage for bipartisan agreement on much as the process unfolds. As for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending proposal, the spending levels generally as expected fell somewhere between the House’s generous plan and FY 2022 funding. Overall, the bill provides nearly \$49 billion, an increase of approximately \$5.5 billion or 13 percent, for federal K-12 education programs, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This includes \$20.137 billion, an increase of \$2.6 billion for Title I-A grants to school districts, which provide financial assistance to nearly 90 percent of school districts. It also includes \$15.3 billion, an increase of \$1.975 billion for IDEA Part B State Grants, for services and supports for 7.4 million students with disabilities and to better meet promised federal support. The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center

programs would see an \$85 million increase. The bill includes \$954 million, an increase of \$123 million, for the English Language Acquisition program. Finally, the bill includes a number of investments to support parent and family engagement in education, including \$45 million, an increase of \$15 million for Parent Information Centers under IDEA and \$25 million, and an increase of \$10 million, for Statewide Family Engagement Centers. As for next steps, lawmakers aren't expected to resolve FY 2023 spending until at least after the mid-term elections. One or more continuing resolutions are expected to keep federal agencies operating through the fall.

In other activity, both the House and Senate approved the CHIPS and Science Act, sending the measure to President Joe Biden for signature. Of course, there was last minute drama. After Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) reached surprising agreement on a reconciliation package that will address deficit reduction, healthcare subsidies, prescription drug prices, and climate issues, Republicans tried to thwart passage of the CHIPS bill. The latter addresses issues in the semiconductor industry and invests in research and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education at the National Science Foundation and other research agencies. Bipartisan support for the measure seemed to evaporate after it was clear that a reconciliation package was going to be forced upon Republicans, and House Republican leadership encouraged their members to oppose the CHIPS bill in a move of likely partisan retaliation. Ultimately, the bill passed with dozens of Republicans supporting it, but House Science, Space and Technology Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) was not among them. That was somewhat of a surprise, given how closely he and Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) worked on many of the bill's provisions.

In coming days, the path forward for a number of bills that lawmakers would like to see complete—including a reconciliation package—will become clearer. In the meantime, Members, staff and advocates are looking forward to recess.

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. Investments in STEM education included in the CHIPS and Science Act will also benefit American students and schools. Unfortunately, provisions that more directly impacted the K-12 system and higher education investments were ultimately dropped from the legislation, but it is still a significant move forward.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

HOUSE JUDICIARY REVIEWS RESOLUTIONS ON SCHOOL BOARD MEMORANDUM

On Wednesday, July 27, the House Judiciary Committee was scheduled to debate two House resolutions, or expressions of sentiment. The resolutions (H.R. 1238 introduced by Rep. Fitzgerald (R-WI) and H.R. 1239 introduced by Rep. Johnson (R-LA)) request and direct the President and the Attorney General to provide certain documents to the House relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General titled, "*Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff.*" Unfortunately, during the

scheduled mark-up, the Judiciary Committee spent nearly 12 hours debating and amending a bill that addresses veterans and undocumented immigration. This controversial legislation took up all the time and the Committee never got to consider the resolutions. It is unclear when or if a new mark-up will be scheduled.

The October 4 memo referenced by the resolutions underscores the Attorney General’s concern for the “spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school administrators, board members, teachers and staff who participate in the vital work of running our nation’s public schools.” The memo highlighted the Justice Department’s intent to direct the FBI to use resources in partnership with local law enforcement to discourage threat against school officials and teachers. The directive received Republican criticism when it was released charging that Attorney General Merrick Garland had gone too far. The memo was published less than a week after the National School Boards Association asked the Biden Administration to take action against the threats of violence.

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4. New Publications

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5. In the News

[School mask mandates return as latest coronavirus variants surge](#)

The Washington Post (July 27, 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 18, 2022

None.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

None.

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

None.

Thursday, July 21, 2022

None.

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:

Consideration of nominations

Possible consideration of *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*

House Floor:

In recess until September 13

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.5376

Build Back Better Act

Sponsor: Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)

(11/22/21 passed by the House; 9/27/21 Introduced in House)

H.R.8450

Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act

Sponsor: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), Rep. Susan Bonamici (D-OR)

(7/27/22 passed by the House Ed and Labor Committee; 7/20/22 Introduced in House)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

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11. About BPAG

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

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

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

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

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