



The Consortium of State School Boards Association
Weekly Education Report
LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON

AUGUST 29, 2022

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Please note, the House and Senate are in recess from August through Labor Day and as a result, the COSSBA Education Report will be shorter than normal. The full COSSBA Education Report will resume in September after Congress returns.

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**
 - **School Funding**
 - **School boards are facing financial conditions unlike any before**
Edunomics Lab (August 26, 2022)
 - **Teacher-Principal Training, Retention and Recruitment**
 - **U.S. Education Secretary Cardona: How to Fix Teacher Shortages, Create Safe Schools**
Education Week (August 23, 2022)
In an interview with *Education Week*, Secretary Cardona addressed the ongoing challenges with severe teacher shortages and respect for the profession, citing the teacher shortage as a “symptom of a teacher respect issue,” and elaborated on how American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars can be used to address the issue both short-term and long-term.
2. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **ED Releases Back-to-School Checklist for Parents**
The Department of Education (ED) released a back-to-school **checklist** for parents and families to help caregivers engage with local school and district

leaders about how they are supporting students as they recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

- **ED Announces Targeted Student Debt Cancellation**
The Department of Education (ED) **announced** that it will provide targeted student debt cancellation to borrowers with loans held by ED; a final extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections through December 31, 2022; and it is proposing long-term changes to the **Public Service Loan Forgiveness** (PSLF) program that will make it easier for borrowers working in public service, such as public school educators, to gain loan forgiveness.
- **ED Awards Over \$29 Million to 10 States for Innovative, Equitable Approaches to Improve Student Learning**
On Friday, August 26, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** 11 awards totaling over \$29 million to 10 state educational agencies (SEAs) under the 2022 Competitive Grants for State Assessments (**CGSA**) program.

3. **New Publications**

- **Measuring Education Opportunity in North Carolina Public School Districts**
The Hunt Institute (August, 2022)
The Hunt Institute recently published a research brief titled “Measuring Educational Opportunity in North Carolina Public School Districts,” which examines data on the reading and math achievement of students in North Carolina public schools as they progress from third to eighth grade.
- **Creating Identity-Safe Schools and Classrooms**
Learning Policy Institute (August, 2022)
This research report addresses the ways in which practitioners can build inclusive and affirming school environments with keen attention to identity safety that can support all students in feeling safe, protected, and valued in school environments.

4. **In the News**

- **As Pandemic Aid Runs Out, America Is Set To Return To A Broken School Funding System**
Chalkbeat (August 25, 2022)
- **Biden’s Student Loan Forgiveness: How Much Will It Help Teachers?**
Education Week (August 24, 2022)
- **Lowering Standards for Teachers is ‘Unfortunate,’ Education Secretary Says**
Politico (August 21, 2022)
- **Decades of Villainization Caused Our Mass Teachers’ Exodus**
The Hill (August 21, 2022)

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

- **Back to School Success with Team Nutrition’s Menu Planning Tools and Resources** (*Wednesday, August 31*)
This informational webinar will highlight Team Nutrition’s many tools and resources to enhance your knowledge of school menu planning and school nutrition operations.
- **Helping Teachers Afford Comprehensive Pathways into Profession and Achieve Loan Forgiveness** (*Wednesday, August 31*)

The Department of Education invites you to an upcoming webinar – “Helping Teachers Afford Comprehensive Pathways into the Profession and Achieve Loan Forgiveness” – that will focus on opportunities to learn about significant improvements to the [TEACH Grant](#) program and the limited time [Public Service Loan Forgiveness waiver](#) to support program affordability and decrease student loan debt for educators.

6. [About BPAG](#)

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

SCHOOL FUNDING

[School boards are facing financial conditions unlike any before](#)
Edunomics Lab (August 26, 2022)

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING, RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

[U.S. Education Secretary Cardona: How to Fix Teacher Shortages, Create Safe Schools](#)
Education Week (August 23, 2022)

In an interview with *Education Week*, Secretary Cardona addressed the ongoing challenges with severe teacher shortages and respect for the profession, citing the teacher shortage as a “symptom of a teacher respect issue,” and elaborated on how American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars can be used to address the issue both short-term and long-term.

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2. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED RELEASES BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

On Thursday, August 25, the Department of Education (ED) released a back-to-school [checklist](#) for parents and families to help caregivers engage with local school and district leaders about how they are supporting students as they recover from the impacts of the pandemic. “This checklist elevates key evidence-based practices for supporting students’ learning and mental health, and ensuring the safety of students and staff, which districts are encouraged to implement using American Rescue Plan (ARP) and other COVID relief funds,” ED’s [press release](#) says. In addition, the back-to-school ARP checklist also recognizes 15 examples of how states and school districts across the country are using ARP funds to support students and to staff schools. The full checklist can be viewed [here](#).

ED ANNOUNCES TARGETED STUDENT DEBT CANCELLATION

On Wednesday, August 24, the Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) that it will provide targeted student debt cancellation to borrowers with loans held by ED. Borrowers with annual income during the pandemic of under \$125,000 (for individuals) or under \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households) who received a Pell Grant in college will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation, and non-Pell Grant recipient borrowers will be eligible for up to \$10,000 in relief. ED also announced a final extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections through December 31, 2022. Additionally, ED is proposing long-term changes to the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF) program that will make it easier for borrowers working in public service to gain loan forgiveness. *Education Week* [reported](#) on how

the Administration’s student loan forgiveness plan and its changes to the PSLF program might benefit K-12 educators that borrowed to fund their university-based training. The article cites a National Education Association [report](#) that found 53 percent of the pre-K–12 teachers and specialized instructional support personnel that were surveyed took out student loans to fund their education.

ED AWARDS OVER \$29 MILLION TO 10 STATES FOR INNOVATIVE, EQUITABLE APPROACHES TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

On Friday, August 26, the Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) 11 awards totaling over \$29 million to 10 state educational agencies (SEAs) under the 2022 Competitive Grants for State Assessments ([CGSA](#)) program.

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3. New Publications

Measuring Educational Opportunity in North Carolina Public School Districts

The Hunt Institute (August, 2022)

The Hunt Institute recently published a research brief titled “Measuring Educational Opportunity in North Carolina Public School Districts,” which examines data on the reading and math achievement of students in North Carolina public schools as they progress from third to eighth grade. The analysis indicates that average achievement may reflect a broad range of educational opportunities available to students based on the socioeconomic status of the community where their school district is located, while achievement growth may better measure the unique contribution of schools toward promoting student learning and achievement.

Creating Identity-Safe Schools and Classrooms

Learning Policy Institute (August, 2022)

This research report addresses the ways in which practitioners can build inclusive and affirming school environments with keen attention to “identity safety” that can support all students in feeling safe, protected, and valued in school environments. A growing body of research points to effective school-based practices and structures that educators can use to foster the identity safety that nurtures student achievement, positive attachments to school, and a genuine sense of belonging and membership for each student.

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4. In the News

As Pandemic Aid Runs Out, America Is Set To Return to a Broken School Funding System

Chalkbeat (August 25, 2022)

Biden’s Student Load Forgiveness: How Much Will It Help Teachers?

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

5. Weekly Calendar

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

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Webinar: Back to School Success with Team Nutrition's Menu Planning Tools and Resources (E&S)

Subject: This informational webinar will highlight Team Nutrition's many tools and resources to enhance your knowledge of school menu planning and school nutrition operations. Have your mobile devices handy as we take a tour of resources using hands-on activities to showcase the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs digital resources, Child Nutrition labels, Product Formulation Statement, USDA standardized recipes, USDA-approved software, and more.

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

Contact: Register [here.](#)

Webinar: Helping Teachers Afford Comprehensive Pathways into Profession and Achieve Loan Forgiveness

Subject: The Department of Education invites you to an upcoming webinar – “Helping Teachers Afford Comprehensive Pathways into the Profession and Achieve Loan Forgiveness” – that will focus on opportunities to learn about significant improvements to the **TEACH Grant** program and the limited time **Public Service Loan Forgiveness waiver** to support program affordability and decrease student loan debt for educators.

Time: 1 p.m. ET

Contact: Register [here.](#)

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6. About BPAG

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

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

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

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