



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

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

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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**
 - **ED Launches PSA Elevating the Teaching Profession:** On Thursday, the Department of Education (ED) launched its campaign to elevate the teaching profession and promote educator diversity. The goal of the PSA is to inspire more talented people—especially those from underrepresented communities—to become teachers, while also elevating the teaching profession and celebrating America’s teachers.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Senate Judiciary Examines Social Media and Teen Mental Health:** On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee held a hearing to examine social media’s influence on teen mental health. The Subcommittee heard from a single witness, Arturo Bejar, former director of Engineering for Facebook’s Protect and Care team.
 - **AEI Looks at Classical Education’s Impact on Students, Educators:** On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an event titled, “Classical Education: Where It Came From, Where It’s Going, and What It Means for Educators.” The panel highlighted how classical education focuses on a

well-rounded approach to teaching, emphasizing liberal arts, logic, morality, and critical thinking as the foundations for future learning.

- **Bipartisan Policy Center Launches Child Welfare Initiative:** On Wednesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted a webinar launching their Child Welfare Initiative (CWI) where BPC Fellow Rob Geen moderated a discussion based on findings from The Harris Poll. This discussion focused on child welfare policy in the United States, expressing that the topic has a long history of being strongly bipartisan, but recent conversation around child welfare has been increasingly polarized.

4. **New Publications**

- **Kids' Share 2023: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children through 2022 and Future Projections**

Urban Institute (November, 2023)

To inform policymakers, children's advocates, and the general public about how public funds are spent on children (birth through age 18), this 17th edition of the annual Kids' Share report provides a new analysis of federal expenditures on children from 1960 to 2022. It also offers an updated view of public expenditures made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Projections of federal expenditures on children through 2033 give a sense of how budget priorities are scheduled to unfold over the longer term under current law.

5. **In the News**

- **Democrat West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin Won't Seek Reelection, Giving GOP a Key Pickup Opportunity**

The Associated Press (November 9, 2023)

- **House Republicans Block Controversial Title IX Proposed Rules in Funding Bill**

K-12 Dive (November 9, 2023)

- **In School Board Elections, Parental Rights Movement is Dealt Setbacks**

New York Times (November 8, 2023)

- **U.S. Department of Education Reminds School of Their Legal Obligation to Address Discrimination, Including Harassment**

U.S. Department of Education (November 7, 2023)

- **The Unlikely Connection between Universal Pre-K and Nicotine Taxes in Colorado**

NPR (November 6, 2023)

- **Schools' Mission Shifted During the Pandemic with Healthcare, Shelter and Adult Ed**

The Hechinger Report (November 6, 2023)

- **Teens Need Parent Permission to Use ChatGPT. Could That Slow Its Use in Schools?**

EdSurge (November 2, 2023)

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

- **Charting the Course for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on

"Charting the Course for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education." The event will have multiple panels with stakeholders and policymakers.

Tuesday at 1pm ET

- **ESSER Fiscal Cliff and Impacts on Nonprofits and Vendors**: The Georgetown University Edunomics Lab will hold a webinar to examine the impacts to vendors and nonprofits the end of federal education relief funding will bring.

Wednesday at 12pm ET

- **Children on Social Media**: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will hold a virtual discussion on "Children on Social Media and the Multistate Lawsuit Against Meta."

Wednesday at 12pm ET

- **The Intersection of Federal Privacy Legislation and AI Governance**: New America will have a panel discussion that explores the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and federal privacy rules in the United States.

Wednesday at 2pm ET

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

• **Senate floor**

- **H.R. 815** - RELIEVE Act (legislative vehicle for Continuing Resolution)
- **Consideration of nominations**

• **House floor**

- **H.R. 4820** – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
- **H.R. 5893** – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
- **H.R. 5894** – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
- **H.R. 5961** – No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act

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

9. **About BPAG**

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

ED LAUNCHES PSA ELEVATING THE TEACHING PROFESSION

On Thursday, the Department of Education (ED) **launched** its campaign to elevate the teaching profession and promote educator diversity. The campaign titled, “Teachers: Leaders Shaping Lives,” is headlined by a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) developed in partnership with TEACH.org and One Million Teachers of Color. The goal of the PSA is to inspire more talented people—especially those from underrepresented communities—to become teachers, while also elevating the teaching profession and celebrating America’s teachers. The PSA premiered on LinkedIn’s **LinkedIn Live** and will appear in media markets across the country via television, radio, and social media. To watch the PSA, click **here**. “This campaign reflects the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to elevating the teaching profession and encouraging more talented people, and especially those from underrepresented communities, to pursue

fulfilling and impactful careers as educators,” said Education Secretary Miguel Cardona. He continued, “At the Department, our efforts to help states and districts grow a talented and diverse teacher pipeline are at the core of our efforts to Raise the Bar in education and build on President Biden’s historic investments in America’s public schools. I’m proud that, thanks in large part to these efforts, we have already reduced the educator shortage to a fraction of what it was during the pandemic.”

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The temporary spending bill that is keeping the federal government open for business expires Friday, November 17th. While Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) has floated a number of ideas for avoiding a government shutdown, House Republicans have no defined plan for passing a measure that could also win Senate approval and President Joe Biden’s signature.

The Senate has made it clear what they want: a “clean” continuing resolution (CR) that funds the government through sometime in December. That would set the stage for final action on FY 2024 spending bills before the end of the year. House Republican leadership would like more time to approve the 12 annual bills—ostensibly to avoid resolving the process by passing an omnibus bill that could turn into a “Christmas tree.” To complicate House machinations, conservatives in that chamber continue to push for a “laddered CR” that would set up staggered shutdown deadlines for each of the 12 bills. The Senate does not care for this novel concept.

As House leadership considers a path forward, efforts to pass two spending bills last week fell short, with each being pulled from the floor after it became clear Republican opposition to the Republican-developed bills meant they wouldn’t pass.

In the midst of these negotiations, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) released the [2024 House calendar](#) last week (the revised 2023 House calendar is [here](#)). The calendar suggests that the House will leave Washington, DC, for the holidays on December 14 and return January 9. That means House leadership expects FY 2024 funding to be addressed by December 14 – either via the enactment of spending bills or a CR that keeps the government open beyond January 9. Next year, the House plans to break for the 2024 election on September 27. Given the 118th Congress’s track record on appropriations, that’s an optimistic deadline for addressing FY 2025 spending.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) bills are supposed to be on the floor this week. The House Rules Committee is meeting today to consider [over 300 amendments](#) that have been proposed for the former; they will meet tomorrow to consider [the 277 amendments](#) for the latter. Given the difficulties related to this week’s debate, however, it seems unlikely either will pass the chamber. Some Republicans have issues with the two bills, and have encouraged leadership to begin conferencing with the Senate on the bills without floor consideration, allowing them to avoid voting on versions of the bill that will never become law. The education bill proposes devastating cuts to Department of Education programs and includes contentious policy riders. The “J” portion of the CJS bill is particularly problematic for many as well. In addition to sorting the

many complications around those bills, both the House and Senate will have to pass something to prevent a government shutdown, which it seems everyone involved wants to avoid.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

SENATE JUDICIARY EXAMINES SOCIAL MEDIA AND TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee held a hearing to examine social media's influence on teen mental health. The Subcommittee heard from a single witness, Arturo Bejar, former director of Engineering for Facebook's Protect and Care team. During testimony, Bejar explained that while at Facebook, he helped oversee investigations into significant engineering security, site integrity, child safety, and care issues; helped craft responses to external inquiries; and coordinated engineering and product changes where needed in those areas. His testimony highlighted that most harm in social media today remains unaddressed; that platforms must change how they identify and measure unwanted content; and that successful reforms must be based on data. During the hearing, Bejar also provided evidence that the company was aware children were being harmed on Instagram and refused to make changes to make the platform safer. He then outlined suggestions for regulators, stating that "the most effective way to regulate social media companies is to require them to develop metrics that will allow both the company and outsiders to evaluate and track instances of harm, as experienced by users." Concluding his testimony, Bejar expressed his belief that giving teenagers a voice around the things they experience will create safer environments. He noted that his regulatory suggestions were not exhaustive but a "necessary start to the work that is needed in order to create an online environment where teens can express themselves and learn to be respectful to each other." Subcommittee Chair Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and minority member Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) both noted their continued advocacy for the bipartisan "[Kids Online Safety Act](#)" (S. 1409), which would provide children and parents with the option to control the content they see online. The legislation, which currently has nearly 50 cosponsors, failed to pass last year, and senators on the committee are skeptical it will pass before the end of this year. A recording of the hearing and witness testimony can be found [here](#).

AEI LOOKS AT CLASSICAL EDUCATION'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS, EDUCATORS

On Wednesday, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an event titled, "Classical Education: Where It Came From, Where It's Going, and What It Means for Educators." The event featured several classical education innovators, including Susan Wise Bauer, publisher of Well-Trained Mind Press; Erika Donalds, CEO of OptimaEd; Robert Jackson, founder of Classical Commons; and Jeremy Tate, founder of Classic Learning Test. The panel highlighted how classical education focuses on a well-rounded approach to teaching, emphasizing liberal arts, logic, morality, and critical thinking as the foundations for future learning. It encourages curiosity and the development of a love for learning, they argue, in contrast to skills-based teaching models that prioritize preparing K-12 students for the workforce. The discussion touched upon "the four cardinal virtues": wisdom, justice, courage, and temperance, as well as the importance of teaching students empathy, patience, and a strong work ethic. Panelists underscored how classical education places a unique and renewed emphasis on subjects like philosophy, art, language, and history, often not seen in abundance at public schools. Questions were raised regarding how to integrate aspects of classical education into the public school

system. Panelists explored the pros and cons of school choice and universal education savings accounts, allowing parents to use state dollars as a de facto voucher for private sector schools. The discussion also delved into the merits of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and possible alternatives, considering the tendency of teachers to align their teaching with test requirements, such as the Classical Learning Test (CLT). While classical education can be influenced by Christianity, it is not necessarily religious, participants noted. Panelists held different opinions on the merits of religious influence in schools but unanimously agreed that classical education is apolitical and should be considered by individuals across the entire political spectrum. A full recording of the event can be found [here](#).

BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER LAUNCHES CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVE

On Wednesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted a webinar launching their Child Welfare Initiative (CWI) where BPC Fellow Rob Geen moderated a discussion based on findings from [The Harris Poll](#). This discussion focused on child welfare policy in the United States, expressing that the topic has a long history of being strongly bipartisan, but recent conversation around child welfare has been increasingly polarized. Despite this polarized landscape, there was widespread agreement on how to address many of the key challenges in this field. The goal of the CWI was to study where divides exist and to identify common values for an opportunity to form bipartisan solutions. The Harris Poll surveyed 2,013 U.S. adults age 18+ between June 29th and July 19th, 2023. From this survey, four main findings emerged. The first finding is that 9 out of 10 Americans believe that parenting is hard, but abuse and neglect are seen as willful, though U.S. adults see more potential for redemption in scenarios of neglect versus abuse. From this finding, Janet Kelly, special advisor to Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin and Founder of Virginia's Kids Belong, implored the panel to dig deeper and juxtapose abuse and neglect with mental health and substance abuse in order to get better trauma-informed care into the community. Jeremy Kohomban, president and CEO of The Children's Village, expressed her desire to educate the public about the difference between neglect and abuse. Another finding from the poll is that Americans believe that agencies should err on the side of caution in considering an investigation, but express concern over bias in decision making. Americans lean toward authorities investigating each report of neglect or abuse, even if that means that some parents might be investigated unnecessarily. Jedd Medefind, president of the Christian Alliance for Orphans, commented that the public does not understand the invasiveness and the impact of an investigation on a family. He advocated for a lighter investigation not spearheaded by law enforcement, but conducted from a faith-based or community-based organization. A third finding from the poll is that Americans recognize the complexity of the welfare system with more than 1 in 3 adults having direct experience with the child welfare system. Americans however are divided with how the system should operate in strengthening families versus protecting children and prioritizing keeping children with their family. Kohomban pressed that more work should be done to harness the full power of community-based organizations. Lastly, the poll found that Americans agree that extended family should be given priority and supported when children require placement and that adoptions should remain open. Kelley stated that kinship care should be the primary tool to address child welfare, as this issue is simply too big for the government to solve on its own. Although great strides have been made to improve the child welfare landscape, more can be accomplished, such as shifting evidence standards and reforms to mandatory reporting, scaling up a kinship care first approach, and ensuring parental rights are protected. A full recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Kids' Share 2023: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children through 2022 and Future Projections

Urban Institute (November, 2023)

To inform policymakers, children's advocates, and the general public about how public funds are spent on children (birth through age 18), this 17th edition of the annual Kids' Share report provides a new analysis of federal expenditures on children from 1960 to 2022. It also offers an updated view of public expenditures made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Projections of federal expenditures on children through 2033 give a sense of how budget priorities are scheduled to unfold over the longer term under current law.

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Democrat West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin Won't Seek Reelection, Giving GOP a key Pickup Opportunity

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EdSurge (November 2, 2023)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Webinar: Charting the Course for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion on "Charting the Course for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education." The event will have multiple panels with stakeholders and policymakers.

Participants: John Bailey, fellow, AEI; Kristen DiCerbo, chief learning officer, Khan Academy; Jeff Livingston, president, EdSolutions; Claire Zau, vice president, GSV Ventures; Roberto Rodriguez, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, US Department of Education; Michael Brickman (moderator), adjunct fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Virginia Fletcher, executive vice president, 2U; Tiffany Hsieh, director of innovation programs, Jobs for the Future; Nina Huntemann, chief academic officer, Chegg; and Kevin Johnstun, Office of Educational Technology, US Department of Education.

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration: Register and full agenda available [here](#).

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Webinar: ESSER Fiscal Cliff and Impacts on Nonprofits and Vendors

Subject: The Georgetown University Edconomics Lab will hold a webinar to examine the impacts to vendors and nonprofits the end of federal education relief funding will bring.

Participants: Marguerite Roza, Georgetown University.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Children on Social Media

Subject: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will hold a virtual discussion on "Children on Social Media and the Multistate Lawsuit Against Meta."

Participants: Eva Smithing, advocacy and community director, Young People's Alliance; Nicole Saad Bembridge, associate counsel, NetChoice; Ashley Johnson, senior policy analyst, ITIF; and Jess Miers, legal advocacy counsel, at the Chamber of Progress.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: The Intersection of Federal Privacy Legislation & AI Governance

Subject: New America will have a panel discussion that explores the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and federal privacy rules in the United States.

Participants: David Morar (moderator), senior policy analyst, Open Technology Institute; Sara Collins, director of government affairs, Public Knowledge; Willmary Escoto, U.S. policy counsel, Access Now; Brandon Pugh, policy director and resident senior fellow, Cybersecurity and Emerging Threats, R Street Institute; and Frank Torres, civil rights technology fellow, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor:

- [H.R. 815](#) – RELIEVE Act (legislative vehicle for Continuing Resolution)

- Consideration of nominations

House Floor:

- [H.R. 4820](#) – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
- [H.R. 5893](#) – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
- [H.R. 5894](#) – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024
- [H.R. 5961](#) – No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act

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

[U.S. House and Senate 2023 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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