



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**
 - **Child Nutrition**
 - On Monday, May 8, House Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee Ranking Member Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) sent a joint **letter** to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in support of its **proposal** to expand children's access to free school meals by strengthening the **Community Eligibility Provision** (CEP). COSSBA also submitted comments in support of the proposed CEP rule as one of our federal priorities is expanding access and increasing funding for school nutrition programs. A copy of the COSSBA comments can be found **here**.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **ED Calls on College Students to Help with K-12 Learning Loss:** On Wednesday, May 10, the Department of Education (ED) published a **Dear Colleague Letter** calling on colleges, universities, and school districts to partner on Federal Work Study (FWS) resources to increase the number of college

students supporting grade school children and youth in K-12 schools and out-of-school time programs.

- **Cardona Defends FY24 Budget Request in Senate Appropriations hearing:**
On Tuesday, May 11, the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) Subcommittee held a hearing to review the President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 funding request and budget justification for the Department of Education.

4. **New Publications**

- **Educating Teachers in California: What Matters for Teacher Preparedness?**
Learning Policy Institute (May 9, 2023)
This analysis examines statewide patterns that emerged from the responses of almost 60,000 completers of Teacher Preparation Programs across California applying for their preliminary teaching credentials from 2016–17 to 2020–21 as well as perceptions from employers hiring these new teachers and cooperating teachers working with student teachers during their preparation.
- **Understanding State Pathways to Teaching – A National Scan**
New America (April 27, 2023)
This resource is meant to guide reflection and innovation as states seek to balance the inherent tensions between quantity, quality, and diverse options that are present when shaping pathways into teaching and determining if and how teachers entering via these pathways can progress once in the profession.

5. **In the News**

- **What Does the End of Title 42 Mean for Schools?**
K-12 Dive (May 11, 2023)
- **Biden Administration Wants College Students to Step in as K-12 Tutors**
EducationWeek (May 10, 2023)
- **Secretary Cardona: This Teacher Appreciation Week, It’s Time to Turn Admiration into Action**
HuffPost (May 9, 2023)
- **Do Vouchers, ESAs Take Money from Public Schools? How States Fund School Choice**
Education Week (May 8, 2023)
- **Secretary Cardona: Show Me Your Budget, I’ll Tell You Your Values**
K-12 Dive (May 5, 2023)

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

- **House Education and the Workforce Committee on Policies of the Department of Education:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Education.”
Tuesday at 10:15am ET
- **Reimagining K-12 after the Pandemic:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a book discussion on “The Great School Rethink: Reimagining K-12 Education after the Pandemic.”
Tuesday at 4pm ET

7. Future Hearings & Events

- **Keeping Kids Mentally and Physically Safe in Schools**: Sandy Hook Promise will host a briefing to explore the impact of the STOP School Violence Act since its passage five years ago and the importance of bipartisan funding for student mental health. Expert panelists will share how violence and suicide prevention programming saves lives in schools every day.

May 23 at 1pm ET

- **Strategies to Support Student Mental Health and Well-Being**: This webinar is the fourth in a series of conversations designed to boost family engagement practices between school and home. The six-month series, produced by the U.S. Department of Education in partnership with Carnegie Corporation of New York and Overdeck Family Foundation, will explore bright spots in the field and provide education leaders and practitioners with resources and evidence-based strategies to support student success.

May 24 at 1pm ET

- **White House Briefing with the Department of Education**: The White House will host a briefing with the Department of Education to learn more about the National Partnership for Student Success initiative and how organizations may join this effort.

May 25 at 1:30pm

8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

- **Senate Floor**: Consideration of nominees
- **House Floor**:
 - **H.R. 2494**: POLICE Act of 2023
 - **H.R. 3091**: Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act
 - **H. Con. Res. 40**: Expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund or dismantle local law enforcement agencies

9. Important U.S. House and Senate Links

10. About BPAG

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

CHILD NUTRITION

SCOTT, BONAMICI PRAISE PUSH TO EXPAND FREE ACCESS TO SCHOOL MEALS

Congressman Bobby Scott (May 9, 2023)

On Monday, May 8, House Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee Ranking Member Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) sent a joint **letter** to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in support of its **proposal** to expand children's access to free school meals by strengthening the **Community Eligibility Provision** (CEP). The proposal was published on March 23 and recommends expanding access to the CEP by lowering the minimum identified

student percentage participation threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent, which would give states and schools greater flexibility to choose to invest non-federal funds to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students. Scott and Bonamici's letter commends the USDA for its efforts "to ensure that students in high poverty areas have access to nutritious and free school meals" and noted appreciation for the USDA's recognition that "choosing to participate in CEP requires careful consideration as student health, educational, administrative, and financial factors must be weighed." COSSBA also submitted comments in support of the proposed CEP rule as one of our federal priorities is expanding access and increasing funding for school nutrition programs. A copy of the COSSBA comments can be found [here](#).

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Last week, the White House hosted an initial meeting between President Biden and the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate over a path forward to increasing the nation's debt limit. The meeting did not produce any progress toward addressing the impending crisis and time is running short.

It has been reported that staff are working on options that include suspending the debt ceiling for two years paired with discretionary spending caps for the next two years. Republicans reportedly favor limiting both to just one year, which could mean having this same type of debate a year from now. Regardless of this work, Congressional leadership and the White House haven't agreed to an approach.

Because the government has never hit the debt ceiling, it's impossible to predict the exact financial and economic repercussions. However, if the country hits the debt limit, it's very possible that government payments could be halted or severely delayed for programs funded by the FY 2023 omnibus appropriations, including education programs. Fingers crossed this gets sorted in coming days.

Legislative activity is also affected by the situation. Namely, FY 2024 appropriations, since a debt ceiling agreement seems likely to have some effect on the content of bills. So far, the House Armed Services Committee has cancelled its markup of the National Defense Authorization Act, and it's uncertain if the planned mark ups of five FY 2024 appropriations bills will happen next week, as House Appropriations Committee chair Kay Granger (R-TX) planned. President Biden and Congressional leadership are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, May 16.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Some FY 2023 funding is already out the door to states or grantees, but funding that would normally be awarded after the date the debt ceiling is hit would be in jeopardy. For example, almost all FY 2023 funding for elementary and secondary education is "forward funded" and isn't provided until July 1 of the fiscal year. So, the FY 2023 appropriations for most K-12 programs hasn't yet been released and is due to be provided this July 1. That is true for all sorts of programs funded by appropriations, and not just the regularly scheduled payments for entitlement programs like Social Security, SNAP, veterans' benefits, etc., which also could be delayed or halted if the debt ceiling is breached.

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED CALLS ON COLLEGE STUDENTS TO HELP WITH K-12 LEARNING LOSS

On Wednesday, May 10, the Department of Education (ED) published a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) calling on colleges, universities, and school districts to partner on Federal Work Study (FWS) resources to increase the number of college students supporting grade school children and youth in K-12 schools and out-of-school time programs. This call to action coincides with an existing partnership between the ED, AmeriCorps and Johns Hopkins University known as the [National Partnership for Student Success \(NPSS\)](#), as well as the announcement of the first cohort of 26 early adopter colleges and universities that have committed to using FWS or other resources to increase the number of students working as tutors, mentors, student success coaches, postsecondary transition coaches, and integrated student support coordinators in other support roles. “By serving as tutors and mentors, college students can make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth, and ultimately, it is in the best interests of our colleges and universities to help accelerate academic recovery in our public elementary and secondary schools,” Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in a statement. The Dear Colleague letter also requests that colleges and universities share data with the NPSS on the number of college students participating in these roles, and highlights how federal funds can account for a larger share of FWS compensation paid for these roles than other FWS positions. The first cohort of early adopter colleges and universities can be found [here](#). Additional colleges and universities can join the ED’s effort [here](#). School districts are encouraged to engage with the NPSS and access support for implementing high-quality tutoring [here](#).

CARDONA DEFENDS FY24 BUDGET REQUEST IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS HEARING

On Tuesday, May 11, the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) Subcommittee held a hearing to review the President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 funding request and budget justification for the Department of Education (ED). The hearing featured a single witness—Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona—who appeared to defend and explain the Biden Administration’s FY 2024 budget request for the agency he leads. The Subcommittee panel displayed bipartisan support for Career and Technical Education (CTE), but it was divided on issues concerning the House-passed [Limit, Save, Grow Act](#) that significantly cuts federal spending and questions around postsecondary federal student aid. [Secretary Cardona](#) called attention to students around the country that will very soon face a pivotal moment in their lives – graduation – “A moment that is part of a broader educational journey from cradle to career, and beyond,” he said. The Secretary noted that decisions made by Congress will either maintain the unacceptable status quo or provide a brighter future for those students and others following in their footsteps. As he has in previous appropriations hearings, Cardona accented President Biden’s proposed funding for universal pre-school, student supports systems, increases to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title I, and mental health programs. The budget sets up students for career success through a \$200 million dollar investment in a high-school redesign program along with increased emphasis on CTE, he noted. Cardona also highlighted the request’s Pell Grant increases and investments in proven programs that make college more affordable. The archived video of the hearing and witness testimony can

be found [here](#). Bose Public Affairs also published a detailed memo of the hearing which can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Educating Teachers in California: What Matters for Teacher Preparedness?

Learning Policy Institute (May 9, 2023)

This analysis examines statewide patterns that emerged from the responses of almost 60,000 completers of Teacher Preparation Programs across California applying for their preliminary teaching credentials from 2016–17 to 2020–21 as well as perceptions from employers hiring these new teachers and cooperating teachers working with student teachers during their preparation.

Understanding State Pathways to Teaching – A National Scan

New America (April 27, 2023)

This resource is meant to guide reflection and innovation as states seek to balance the inherent tensions between quantity, quality, and the diverse options that are present when shaping pathways into teaching and determining if and how teachers entering via these pathways can progress once in the profession.

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5. In the News

What Does the End of Title 42 Mean for Schools?

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Secretary Cardona: Show Me Your Budget, I’ll Tell You Your Values

K-12 Dive (May 5, 2023)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Hearing: House Education and the Workforce Committee on Policies of the Department of Education

Subject: The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Education.”

Witness: Miguel Cardona, secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

Time and Location: 10:15 a.m.; 2175 Rayburn HOB.

Registration: Live stream available [here](#).

Webinar: Reimagining K-12 Education after the Pandemic

Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) will hold a book discussion on “The Great School Rethink: Reimagining K-12 Education after the Pandemic.”

Participants: Christina Grant, superintendent of education, Washington D.C.; Kathleen Porter-Magee, superintendent, Partnership Schools; Frederick Hess, director of education policy, AEI; and Cade Brumley, Louisiana State Superintendent of Education.

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Briefing: Keeping Kids Mentally and Physically Safe in Schools

Subject: Sandy Hook Promise will host a briefing to explore the impact of the STOP School Violence Act since its passage five years ago and the importance of bipartisan funding for student mental health. Expert panelists will share how violence and suicide prevention programming saves lives in schools every day.

Participants: Lena Kalandjian, former youth advisory board member, Sandy Hook Promise; Joel, current save student, Sandy Hook Promise; Jessica Neely, director, Say Something Anonymous Reporting System Crisis Center; Cosimo Tangorra, superintendent, New Hartford Central School District; Christopher Brockmeyer, chief deputy, Suffolk County, New York; and Kristen Jaccodine, school counselor, High Point Regional High School.

Time and Location: 1:00 p.m.; 2044 Rayburn HOB.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Strategies to Support Student Mental Health & Well-Being

Subject: This webinar is the fourth in a series of conversations designed to boost family engagement practices between school and home. The six-month series, produced by the U.S. Department of Education in partnership with Carnegie Corporation of New York and Overdeck Family Foundation, will explore bright spots in the field and provide education leaders and practitioners with resources and evidence-based strategies to support student success.

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, May 25, 2023

White House Briefing with Department of Education

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of nominees

House Floor:

[H.R. 2494](#) – POLICE Act of 2023

[H.R. 3091](#) – Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act

[H. Con. Res. 40](#) – Expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund or dismantle local law enforcement agencies

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9. 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](#)

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[Federal legislative information](#)

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10. 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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