



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

JUNE 19, 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**
 - **Broadband Connectivity and E-Rate - ED Launches Campaign to Help Students Access High-Speed Internet:** On Wednesday, June 14, over 300 local and national organizations joined Civic Nation and the Department of Education to launch Online for All, a digital equity campaign working to close the digital divide by focusing on internet access, affordability, and equity for students, families.
 - **Funding - Panorama, Education Week Discuss Using Data to Leverage Funding:** On Tuesday, June 13, Panorama Education—in partnership with *Education Week*—held a webinar on “Leveraging New Funding Sources with Data-Informed Practices.” The webinar featured two school leaders from districts serving approximately 4,000 students and how they are leveraging **Panorama surveys and tools.**
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Experts Examine Environmental Impact on Early Childhood Development:** On Monday, June 12, the Hunt Institute hosted a webinar titled, “**Place Matters – How the Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Early Development.**” Inspired by the most recent working paper, *Place Matters,*

released by the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, the webinar featured a panel of experts to discuss the importance of environmental influences on healthy early childhood development.

- **NASBE Hosts Panel on State Efforts to Address Youth Substance Abuse:** On Wednesday, June 14, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) held a webinar titled, “**State Efforts to Address Substance Abuse.**” Drawing from a recent **NASBE analysis** on renewed statewide efforts to combat youth opioid and nicotine abuse, the featured panelists provided important context around the rise in substance-related overdoses amongst youth.

4. **New Publications**

- **Lag Time: How Policy Compliance Failures Delay Special Education Support for Area Children**

EdNavigator (June, 2023)

This new report explores barriers families face when seeking to have their child evaluated for special needs or to ensure proper special education services. The analysis is unique in that it is drawn from a sample of children who were referred by their pediatricians for assistance navigating education.

- **A Work in Progress: How COVID Aid is Helping Schools Recover and the Need for Sustained Federal Support**

Chiefs for Change (June, 2023)

This report addresses how ESSER dollars have benefited K-12 schools nationwide and outlines promising initiatives funded with emergency K-12 aid. It also describes persistent challenges and calls on policymakers to support fiscal year 2024 measures that would strengthen educational opportunities overall and allow K-12 systems to continue impactful COVID recovery work.

5. **In the News**

- **House Committee Votes to Yank Federal Funding from Schools Used as Migrant Shelters**

K-12 Dive (June 14, 2023)

- **Illinois Gov. Pritzker Signs Nation’s First Statewide Book Ban Halt Into Law**

K-12 Dive (June 13, 2023)

- **Minnesota Department of Education Exposed in Global Data Breach**

K-12 Dive (June 13, 2023)

- **Distracted Students and Stressed Teachers: What an American School Day Looks Like Post-COVID**

USA Today (June 12, 2023)

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

- **Strengthening Kindergarten to Improve Student Outcomes:** New America will hold a webinar on "Strengthening Kindergarten to Improve Children's PreK-3rd Grade Experiences."

Tuesday at 3pm ET

- **Investments to Develop STEM Talent:** The Committee for Education Funding will host a webinar on “The National Imperative to Develop STEM Talent: Why

the Investment in Education Matters” in conjunction with the Coalition for National Science Funding.

Wednesday at 1pm ET

- **National Working Group on Advanced Education**: The Thomas B. Fordham Institute will hold a webinar on a new report, "National Working Group on Advanced Education," with recommendations for states, school districts, and Charter School networks."

Thursday at 1pm ET

- **Using ESSER Funds to Support Innovative Educator Pathways**: The Council for Chief State School Officers will host a webinar to highlight findings from a new report, “The Road to Recovery: How States are Using ESSER Funds to Support Teacher Recruitment and Retention.”

Thursday at 3pm ET

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

- **Senate Floor**: Consideration of nominations and treaty
- **House Floor**:
 - **H.R. 3799** – CHOICE Arrangement Act
 - **H.J. Res. 45** – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans"
 - **H. Res. 461** – Condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States
 - **H.R. 3564** – Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023

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

9. **About BPAG**

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND E-RATE

ED LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO HELP STUDENTS ACCESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

On Wednesday, June 14, over 300 local and national organizations joined Civic Nation and the Department of Education (ED) to launch **Online for All**, a digital equity campaign working to close the digital divide by focusing on internet access, affordability, and equity for students, families. Online For All **kicked off** last week to drive enrollment in the **Affordable Connectivity Program**. The Affordable Connectivity Program, created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, lowers the cost of internet so that more eligible households can benefit. “The ‘Online for All’ campaign will help meet that need for so many. On behalf of Secretary Cardona, we are proud to be a part of this dynamic initiative that will not only raise the bar in education, but change the way we look at access to information for all students, no matter their age, race, economic status, or address,” said U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten. ED plans to launch the initiative with a Week of Action with help from the National Education Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, American Federation of

Teachers, and more to spread the word about the Affordable Connectivity Program and the benefits available to schools, families, and students. More information can be found [here](#).

FUNDING

PANORAMA, EDUCATION WEEK DISCUSS USING DATA TO LEVERAGE FUNDING

On Tuesday, June 13, Panorama Education—in partnership with *Education Week*—held a webinar on “Leveraging New Funding Sources with Data-Informed Practices.” The webinar featured two school leaders from districts serving approximately 4,000 students and how they are leveraging [Panorama surveys and tools](#). Lindsey Gregg, director of teaching and learning at Talawanda School District in Ohio, outlined that her district has three elementary schools with one junior high school and one high school. Talawanda is a largely white and rural community with 27 percent of the population economically disadvantaged. The district has been using Panorama student and teacher surveys for nearly three years and recently added social-emotional tools. The district uses the data as a way to engage parents, students, administrators, teachers, and other community leaders on how the district is progressing on key education goals and objectives. Darlene Markman, assistant superintendent of curriculum for the Bergenfield Borough School District in New Jersey, noted that the district has a diverse student body with nearly 60 percent identifying as Hispanic, 28 percent economically disadvantaged, and a growing English Language Learner population. Bergenfield has used Panorama student and teacher surveys for three years along with the additional features to support student well-being and learning. The district also uses the data to engage stakeholders on outcomes related to district educational goals. Panelists noted that pandemic-related supplemental education funding will be obligated by the end of next year, and ideas were offered on how to sustain work on student well-being, which included partnerships with other organizations (e.g., hospitals) and examining other sources of funding, such as state and local funds, and philanthropy. The panel noted that having data to track education outcomes is advantageous when applying for funding.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Last week, House Republican leaders made a decision about funding levels for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 spending bills, which may ultimately lead to possible significant cuts to investments in education. After some back and forth drama, which shutdown the operations of the House for several days and centered around concerns from far-right members of the Republic Caucus that the debt limit agreement struck by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) didn't cut spending enough, Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) [announced](#) that the Committee will continue to develop FY 2024 spending bills with overall funding capped at FY 2022 levels. That figure is \$119 billion below the FY 2024 discretionary level set by the debt limit deal. Later in the week, the Committee released a draft defense spending bill that proposes funding at \$28.7 billion over the FY 2023 level.

Practically, observers and advocates are predicting a likely government shutdown at some point during the FY 2024 process, since Senate appropriators have signaled they have no intention of using the numbers announced by House leadership and will use the upper limits of the bipartisan debt limit agreement as their floor. A shutdown could come as soon as October 1, or later in the process when negotiations presumably get more difficult and increasingly partisan. That could bring one of the more interesting elements of the debt limit deal into play: federal funding will

automatically go to 99% of FY 2023 spending levels if the government is operating on a continuing resolution on January 1.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The announcement from House Appropriations Chair Granger last week makes it clear that the panel will be implementing the significant cuts required to keep overall spending at FY 2022 levels for non-defense spending—this means cuts to programs like education, research, and those administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

When divvying up funds for all 12 spending bills, Chair Granger set the level for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee at \$60 billion below its **FY 2023 level of \$207 billion** in discretionary funding. That's a reduction of almost 30%. While this is not good news for the many stakeholders that care about the programs funded by this bill, there are some potential mitigating factors. As mentioned, Senate appropriators do not plan on setting funding at the levels agreed upon by House leaders, which will lead to difficult negotiations. In addition, there are a handful of budgetary gimmicks that could increase available funds.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

EXPERTS EXAMINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

On Monday, June 12, the Hunt Institute hosted a webinar titled, “**Place Matters – How the Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Early Development.**” Inspired by the most recent working paper, *Place Matters*, released by the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, the webinar featured a panel of experts to discuss the importance of environmental influences on healthy early childhood development. Panelists included Dr. Dolores Acevedo-Garcia from the Institute for Child, Youth, and Family Policy at Brandeis University, Dr. Lindsey Burghardt from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Health Scientist Dr. Caitlin Gould, who all provided additional context to the original working paper’s development and implications for policy. Many of the panelists emphasized the overarching theme, “What surrounds us shapes us,” stressing that both the physical and emotional environment children develop in impact their ability to thrive as adolescents and adults. As the working paper highlighted, and Dr. Acevedo-Garcia reiterated during the panel, early childhood policies should better recognize the necessity of “ensuring the environments are... safe, supportive, and free of toxicants.” New efforts to measure such factors on child development, like the Childhood Opportunity Index (COI), are necessary steps forward in understanding the environmental discrepancies found across different communities and neighborhoods. Dr. Gould particularly noted the various ways climate change and global warming might impact child learning loss, mental health, and result in physical health impacts detrimental to early childhood development. Children and adolescents are also more sensitive to many of these environmental influences, underscoring the importance of evaluating both positive and negative factors in a child’s environment. Dr. Dan Wuori from the Hunt Institute fielded a slate of interesting questions from the audience, especially detailing the recent **air quality issues** seen across the U.S., and panelists provided diverse viewpoints on promising environmental policies providing innovative “opportunities for how to protect kids.” The full recording of the webinar can be found **[here](#)**.

NASBE HOSTS PANEL ON STATE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

On June 14, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) held a webinar titled, “[State Efforts to Address Substance Abuse](#).” Drawing from a recent [NASBE analysis](#) on renewed statewide efforts to combat youth opioid and nicotine abuse, the featured panelists provided important context around the rise in substance-related overdoses amongst youth. Panelists included Associate Director of Program Implementation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Marci Feldman Hertz; Ioana Ungureanu from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; and Hanaleah Hoberman with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Panelists paid particular attention to the relative drop in youth substance abuse over the past decade, accompanied with the frightening 94 percent increase in adolescent mortality rates from overdoses in 2020. Hertz explained the likely impact of Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl (IMF) in contributing to the spike in mortality rates – noting 40 percent of youth overdoses involved IMF – and states adopting numerous policies to help curb accidental drug-related deaths. Policy solutions discussed included tobacco-free school initiatives, renewed educational curricula on substance abuse, age restrictions for drug sales, and new CDC cited prevention strategies—all of which were implemented differently and to different extents depending on the unique state context. Hedger from NASBE fielded many interesting questions about state implementation with panelists noting the absolute importance of addressing the underlying causes of substance abuse amongst youth. Not only were many State School Boards focused on instituting direct policies to address dangerous and unhealthy substance abuse, but increased resources (especially since the COVID-19 pandemic) have also been devoted to combat the root issues of mental illness and economic insecurity. A recording of the webinar should be released on [NASBE’s YouTube](#) soon.

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4. New Publications

Lag Time: How Policy Compliance Failures Delay Special Education Support for Boston-Area Children

EdNavigator (June, 2023)

This new report explores barriers families face when seeking to have their child evaluated for special needs or to ensure proper special education services. The analysis is unique in that it is drawn from a sample of children who were referred by their pediatricians for assistance navigating education.

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5. In the News

House Committee Votes to Yank Federal Funding from Schools Used as Migrant Shelters

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[Illinois Gov. Pritzker signs nation’s 1st statewide book ban halt into law](#)
K-12 Dive (June 13, 2023)

[Minnesota Department of Education exposed in global data breach](#)
K-12 Dive (June 13, 2023)

[Distracted Students and Stressed Teachers: What an American School Day Looks Like Post-COVID](#)
USA Today (June 12, 2023)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Webinar: Strengthening Kindergarten to Improve Student Outcomes

Subject: New America will hold a webinar on "Strengthening Kindergarten to Improve Children's PreK-3rd Grade Experiences."

Participants: Gloria Corral, president and CEO, Parent Institute for Quality Education; Connie Hall, 2023 Nevada State Teacher of the Year; Shantel Meek, director, Arizona State University Children's Equity Project; and Anya Hurwitz, executive director, Sobrato Early Academic Language.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Webinar: Investments to Develop STEM Talent

Subject: The Committee for Education Funding will host a webinar on “The National Imperative to Develop STEM Talent: Why the Investment in Education Matters” in conjunction with the Coalition for National Science Funding.

Panelists: Dr. Amy Burke, program director, Science, Technology, and Information Analysis, National Science Foundation’s National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics; André M. Green, professor and associate vice president, Academic Affairs, University of South Alabama; and Mr. Billy Mawhiney, executive director, South Dakota Afterschool Network.

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Webinar: National Working Group on Advanced Education

Subject: The Thomas B. Fordham Institute will hold a webinar on a new report, “National Working Group on Advanced Education,” with recommendations for states, school districts, and Charter School networks.

Panelists: Scott Peters, senior research scientist, Northwest Evaluation Association; Homero Chavez, director, Gadsden Elementary School District 32's Early College Program; and Sneha

Shah-Coltrane, director of advanced learning and gifted education, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Using ESSER Funds to Support Innovative Educator Pathways

Subject: The Council for Chief State School Officers will host a webinar to highlight findings from a new report, “The Road to Recovery: How States are Using ESSER Funds to Support Teacher Recruitment and Retention.”

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

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7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of nominations and treaty

House Floor:

- [H.R. 3799](#) – CHOICE Arrangement Act
- [H.J. Res. 45](#) – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans”
- [H. Res. 461](#) – Condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States
- [H.R. 3564](#) – Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023

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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](#)

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[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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