



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

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

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**Federal Advocacy Conference Note:** *We're excited to see many of you next week in Washington. If you haven't already scheduled your visits with Congressional staff – now is the time to do so. Please feel free to contact Bose Public Affairs staff if you have any questions or need any assistance.*

*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**
  - **Funding**
    - **Principals Urge Congress to Preserve Title I Funding:** The letter, sent by The National Association of Secondary School Principals on Sept. 5 to all congressional leaders and members, warns of “drastic reductions” to Every Student Succeeds Act programs if the proposal from the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies becomes law.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
  - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **Board of Education Statistics Discusses Budget, New Leadership:** On Monday, the National Board of Education Statistics held a meeting to provide an update on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the National Center for Education Statistics as well as to seek feedback on coordinating the search for a new director of the Department of Education’s Institute for Education Sciences (IES).
  - **Senate Judiciary Holds Hearing on Book Bans:** On Tuesday, The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing titled, “Book Bans, Examining How

Censorship Limits Liberty and Literature.” The proceeding was largely partisan in nature, with Republicans stating that challenging certain books protects children from explicit content, while Democrats claimed book bans are a threat to democracy.

- **Bipartisan Policy Center Examines Polling on Paid Family Leave:** On Tuesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted a webinar focused on paid family leave, entitled “Breaking Barriers: Poll Results on Paid Family Leave and Supporting Work.” A study conducted by BPC examined the role of paid family leave in incentivizing non-working adults aged 25-54 to return to the workforce.
- **Dems Point to Cuts in Education Funding in House Workforce Hearing:** On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled, “The Impact of Biden’s Open Border on the American Workforce.” During the hearing, Democrats repeatedly pointed to the detrimental cuts to education funding that supports low-income children and those with disabilities that much of the Republican caucus is pushing through appropriations bills.
- **House Judiciary Holds Hearing on Exploitation of Children:** On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing titled, “Children are Not for Sale: Examining the Threat of Exploitation of Children in the U.S. and Abroad.” The hearing examined the rise of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) within the United States, child sex trafficking, how social media companies might be perpetuating the problem, and the obstacles law enforcement faces when investigating cases of online CSAM.
- **School Principals Examine School Mental Health Policies:** On Wednesday, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) hosted part two of a webinar titled, “Be Well: Centering Mental Health in Schools.” Speakers ranging from digital first responders to school principals discussed the importance of providing easily accessible and updated mental health resources to both students and educators.
- **ED Announces New Actions to Accelerate Learning, Achievement:** On Wednesday, the Department of Education (ED) called attention to the Biden-Harris Administration’s record of investment in K-12 public schools and announced additional actions to improve instruction and accelerate academic success across the country as students begin the new school year.
- **House Panel Marks Up Hunting Education Bill, Other Proposals:** On Thursday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a markup of several pieces of legislation, including **H.R. 4259**, the *Think Differently about Education Act*; **H.R. 5349**; the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act*; and **H.R. 5110**, the *Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act*.

#### 4. **New Publications**

- **Findings from the 2022-23 National Partnership for Student Success Principal Survey**  
*National Partnership for Student Success (September, 2023)*

A comprehensive post-pandemic representative survey of public school principals fielded by the RAND Corporation in spring 2023 shows that the nation's schools are working hard to provide students with the people-powered supports they need to thrive in the wake of the pandemic.

5. **In the News**

- **It's Back to School for Cyber Gangs, Too**  
*The 74 (September 14, 2023)*
- **With Thousands of Child Care Programs at Risk of Closing, Democrats Press for More Money**  
*ABC News (September 12, 2023)*
- **Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Completion of Nationwide Unlocking Pathways Summit Series**  
*U.S. Department of Education (September 12, 2023)*
- **Top NAEP Official Talks about the Future of Nation's Report Card and More**  
*EducationWeek (September 11, 2023)*
- **Virginia Governor Pardons Man Whose Arrest at a School Board Meeting Galvanized Conservatives**  
*ABC News (September 10, 2023)*

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

- **House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Chinese Influence in America's Classrooms:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee's Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Academic Freedom under Attack: Loosening the CCP's Grip on America's Classrooms."  
*Tuesday at 10:15am ET*
- **Parent and Voter Priorities One Year from the ESSER Deadline:** This summer, The Hunt Institute conducted its annual nationwide survey of parents and voters on their perceived challenges and priorities in education. As the one-year Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) deadline approaches, join The Hunt Institute and national education and survey research leaders for this timely conversation around what matters most to families in education – literacy, workforce development, school safety, mental health, and more – and how state and district leaders can leverage remaining dollars and time to meet their priorities.  
*Thursday at 2pm ET*
- **Addressing the Increase in Uncertified Teachers:** The Education Commission of the States will host a webinar discussion on how state and local leaders from Maine, Colorado, and Nevada are working to address teacher shortages and place qualified teachers into classrooms.  
*Thursday at 2pm ET*
- **How Federal Aid is Helping Students Recover and What Schools Need Going Forward:** Chiefs for Change, a bipartisan network of district superintendents and state education leaders, will hold a briefing on federal pandemic aid and academic recovery.

Thursday at 3pm ET

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Making the Grade – Solving the US Math Problem**: The Hill will hold a discussion on “Making the Grade: Solving the U.S. Math Problem.”  
*September 26 at 3:30pm ET*
- **Safe Schools, Thriving Students – School, District, State, and Federal Policy Lessons**: The Learning Policy Institute, co-sponsored by AASA, The School Superintendents Association and the Education Commission of the States, will host a webinar to discuss effective policy approaches and high-impact investments that can help create schools that foster student well-being and academic and social emotional learning.  
*September 27 at 3pm ET*

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

- **Senate floor:**
  - **Consideration of nominations**
  - **H.R.4366**, an act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024
- **House floor:**
  - **H.R. 1130**, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023
  - **H. Res. 684**, Condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms.

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

10. **About BPAG**

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## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### FUNDING

#### PRINCIPALS URGE CONGRESS TO PRESERVE TITLE I FUNDING

On September 5, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sent a letter to all congressional leaders and members, warning of “drastic reductions” to Every Student Succeeds Act programs if the proposal from the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies becomes law. NASSP’s letter was signed by 45 state school leader associations. The opposition from school leaders comes after a July House subcommittee proposal to eliminate 80% of Title I funding in the FY 2024 budget,

which administrators say would have harmful impacts to K-12. As a reminder, COSSBA also opposed the Title I cuts proposed by the House subcommittee.

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## **2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up**

Both the House and Senate were in session last week for the first time since July. Top of mind for legislators on both sides of the Capitol is how to avoid a federal government shutdown on October 1, 2023. To that end, each chamber had hoped to debate and pass a handful of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 spending bills. Neither chamber was successful, meaning no legislative progress on FY 2024 spending was made last week.

Of course, there was a lot of talk about how to avoid a shutdown. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) continues to face challenges from members of his caucus as he attempts to develop a continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the government open while spending bills are negotiated. Last week, that intention was connected to demands from some Republicans to seriously pursue impeachment of President Biden. Speaker McCarthy announced his approval of an impeachment inquiry to that end. However, it remains unclear how many more demands he may face between now and September 30<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, some conservatives in the House and Senate are objecting to floor consideration of any of the bills until they see that the total spending across all 12 of the bills is no more than the FY 2022 level of discretionary funding, which is far below the levels set in June by the Fiscal Responsibility Act – the debt ceiling and budget agreement approved earlier this year. One solution that is being proposed by conservative Republican Chip Roy (TX) and others is a temporary spending bill that could include a one percent across the board cut. The “Secure the Border” bill would be attached to the measure, as would legislation that blocks funding for “weaponization” of the Justice Department and “woke” policies at the Department of Defense. Even if that approach won support from all Republicans in the House, it is highly unlikely to pass the Senate.

Speaker McCarthy’s job is only going to get more difficult in coming days. On Monday, education advocates and many others had hoped the week’s end might bring some clarity on the likelihood of a federal government shutdown and the path forward for FY 2024 spending bills. Perhaps next week will provide it.

### **How does this impact State School Board Associations?**

As described last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed its bipartisan Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill. The Senate bill is much preferred by COSSBA and other education advocates to the House Subcommittee passed bill, which has not been considered by the full House Appropriations Committee. Some Republican members of the full committee are reportedly uncomfortable voting for a proposal that would cut Department of Education spending by \$22.1 billion, and gut Title I and Title II, among other cuts and policy proposals. It is likely that any funding for education will be resolved in an end of year omnibus bill and not resolved by moving either of these individual bills.

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### **3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington**

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION STATISTICS DISCUSSES BUDGET, NEW LEADERSHIP**

On Monday, the National Board of Education Statistics held a meeting to provide an update on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget for the National Center for Education Statistics as well as to seek feedback on coordinating the search for a new director of the Department of Education’s Institute for Education Sciences (IES). The current director of IES, Dr. Mark Schneider, gave an update on the *Education Sciences Reform Act* (ESRA) re-authorization. He noted that the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee is working on a bipartisan draft. Dr. Schneider also mentioned forthcoming bipartisan legislation from Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education, which would support innovative research, similar to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). He noted that the Obama Administration supported the establishment of such an office, and the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus bill provided \$30 million for innovative projects at the Education Department. He encouraged members of the education research community to reach out to House members to indicate their support for a new ESRA re-authorization. Secondly, Dr. Schneider noted the need to upgrade state longitudinal data systems. Much of the funding was provided 13 years ago in the *American Rescue and Recovery Act* and states are in need of additional funding to upgrade their data and tech systems. Finally, he noted that there is some discussion on student privacy and updates to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act as these state longitudinal data systems become more robust with more data from different apps and systems. A transcript of the meeting will be available at a later date.

#### **SENATE JUDICIARY HOLDS HEARING ON BOOK BANS**

On Tuesday, The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing titled, “Book Bans, Examining How Censorship Limits Liberty and Literature.” The proceeding was largely partisan in nature, with Republicans stating that challenging certain books protects children from explicit content, while Democrats claimed book bans are a threat to democracy. Republicans also criticized Democrats for mischaracterizing book bans, while Democrats noted most of the books being removed highlight topics on race and racism or LGBTQ+ issues. Even so, the Committee found consensus in the notion that Congress does not have much of a role to play on deciding whether a school or district should censor certain books from classrooms and libraries. In his opening remarks, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) stated, “I understand and respect that parents may choose to limit what their children read, especially at a younger age. But no parent should have the right to tell another parent’s child what they can and cannot read in school or at home. Every student deserves access to books that reflect their experiences and help them better understand who they are.” Senator Lindsey Graham’s (R-NC) opening statement expressed support for parental choice and encouraged parents to express their concerns appropriately. Even so, Graham asserted that it was not Congress’ job to decide these things, and that there are larger issues the Committee should be addressing, specifically calling out illegal immigration across the southern border. As for witness testimony, Max Eden, a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, stated that the term “book ban” has been misinterpreted, considering the public can still access books to purchase online or from bookstores. Meanwhile, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias testified that book challenges in schools and libraries are “government overreach at its peak.” Legislation in Illinois “establishes a clear path, opposite and away from the damaging trend to



ban and censor books that a small group agrees with,” Giannoulas said. Witness testimony and a recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

### **BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER EXAMINES POLLING ON PAID FAMILY LEAVE**

On Tuesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) hosted a webinar focused on paid family leave, entitled “Breaking Barriers: Poll Results on Paid Family Leave and Supporting Work.” A study conducted by BPC examined the role of paid family leave in incentivizing non-working adults aged 25-54 to return to the workforce. According to poll data, nearly 20 percent of this prime working-aged demographic are not working, and 85 percent of that group are not looking to reenter the workforce. The most prominent reasons for these trends are caregiving responsibilities and personal/familial illnesses, affecting 37 percent and 35 percent of this group respectively. The study also found that 39 percent of those who are not working due to caregiving responsibilities said that they would have continued working if a past employer had offered paid leave benefits. Currently, only 13 states and the District of Columbia mandate paid family care benefits, with eight other states offering similar voluntary systems. The webinar hosted a panel of four leading experts in the field of paid family leave policy, including D.J. Bettencourt with the New Hampshire Deputy Insurance Commission, Erin Choquette with Connecticut Paid Leave Authority, Karen Humelbaugh with Paid Leave Oregon, and Elliot Schreur with the Maryland Department of Labor. These four panelists underscored the economic and personal benefits of their state’s family leave policies, while discussing the differences in their approaches. As each state has different social and economic needs, their approach to the issue of paid leave varies. New Hampshire’s voluntary private market approach, which utilizes a private insurance system called MetLife to fund paid family leave, and provides tax incentives for participating companies. Oregon’s program is funded by both employers and employees, with provisions exempting small businesses with under 25 employees. Oregon is also the only state which offers paid safe leave for victims of domestic violence. Similarly, Maryland uses funding from both employers and employees to provide paid leave, providing companies with private or public sector implementation options. By contrast, Connecticut’s mandatory program is fully taxpayer-funded, with the option for companies to implement their own programs with oversight. While these states differ in their approach to paid family leave, the panel agreed on its economic benefits of job retention and workforce participation, as well as the social benefits of having paid time off to prioritize health and wellness. A full recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

### **DEMS POINT TO CUTS IN EDUCATION FUNDING IN HOUSE WORKFORCE HEARING**

On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions held a hearing entitled, “The Impact of Biden’s Open Border on the American Workforce.” The hearing provided Committee members with an opportunity to express their thoughts on how illegal immigration is impacting the American workforce and consider best practices and policies to properly secure the American border and reform America’s legal immigration process. Republicans on the Committee ridiculed the Biden-Harris Administration’s “open border” policies and pointed to illegal immigration’s impact on taxpayer dollars and workforce wages. Committee Democrats disputed their Republican colleagues’ rhetoric that President Biden is refusing to address the border crisis and is responsible for America’s tattered immigration system. They argued that border and immigration policy is not under the Committee’s jurisdiction, and instead tried to focus the hearing on issues the panel oversees, highlighting workforce investments in the Inflation Reduction Act, the American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act from

last Congress. Democrats also pointed to the detrimental cuts to education funding that supports low-income children and those with disabilities that much of the Republican caucus is pushing through appropriations bills. They additionally called attention to the lack of congressional support for federally subsidized childcare services in response to Republicans addressing their concern for unaccompanied children coming across the border, child labor, the exploitation of children, and human trafficking. Witness testimony and a recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

### **HOUSE JUDICIARY HOLDS HEARING ON EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing titled, “Children are Not for Sale: Examining the Threat of Exploitation of Children in the U.S. and Abroad.” The hearing examined the rise of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) within the United States, child sex trafficking, how social media companies might be perpetuating the problem, and the obstacles law enforcement faces when investigating cases of online CSAM. During the hearing, Committee members and witnesses discussed several pieces of legislation: The [SHIELD Act](#), the [EARN IT Act](#), the [Child Online Safety and Modernization Act](#), the [END Child Exploitation Act](#), and the [Project Safe Childhood Act](#). These bills include provisions designed to protect children from sexual exploitation, incentivize the technology sector to prevent, block, and remove child sexual abuse materials from their platforms, and provide resources to law enforcement to more effectively investigate cases of online child exploitation. Much of the discussion centered on the role technology companies play, with Subcommittee Chairman Andy Biggs (R-AZ) saying in his opening remarks, “Today between school and home children have unfettered access to technology. And big tech is taking that opportunity to choose profits over people over our children.” He called out several popular social media companies for “the proliferation of abuse images and human trafficking on its platforms.” Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA) called attention to the online exploitation of children while they are in school and referred to the [Stop Human Trafficking in School Zones Act](#), which establishes an enhanced penalty for certain human trafficking and sex offenses involving minors that occur within 1,000 feet of a school, school-sponsored activity, playground, or public housing facility; or within 100 feet of certain other places where children gather. Lori Cohen, Chief Executive Officer for Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT), testified that PACT is engaged in seeking to stop the exploitation of migrant children as well, highlighting support from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Trafficking in Persons to develop English and Spanish curricula in school districts to make children aware of the risks of trafficking. Additional witness testimony and a recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

### **SCHOOL PRINCIPALS EXAMINE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES**

On Wednesday, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) hosted part two of a webinar titled, “Be Well: Centering Mental Health in Schools.” Speakers ranging from digital first responders to school principals discussed the importance of providing easily accessible and updated mental health resources to both students and educators. Melissa Schlinger with CASEL emphasized the importance of social and emotional learning for K-12 students which helps to develop social awareness and responsible decision-making skills. Kim Karr with Digital4Good spoke to the organization’s mission to educate, raise awareness, and empower students by promoting digital safety and behavior and how to face situations of cyberbullying.



She highlighted how Digital4Good creates resources for parents, students, and educators on a range of digital issues from risk reporting protocols to online dating safety tips. Four principals from schools across the country discussed the mental health resources that they have provided to students and educators. “Zen dens,” counseling services, and student support teams have all helped to bolster community culture and mental health. The conversation wrapped up with Mohammed Shedeed, a current freshman at the University of Pittsburgh, sharing his experience of how mental health resources in his school helped him both personally and academically. Although significant progress has been made to increase mental health awareness and resources in K-12 schools, more needs to be done to ensure access and timely mental health action for all students and educators.

### **ED ANNOUNCES NEW ACTIONS TO ACCELERATE LEARNING, ACHIEVEMENT**

On Wednesday, the Department of Education (ED) called attention to the Biden-Harris Administration’s record of investment in K-12 public schools and announced additional actions to improve instruction and accelerate academic success across the country as students begin the new school year. Those actions include: \$50 million to support reading and math outcomes for students; support to expand the number of tutors and mentors in schools; support for reducing chronic absenteeism in schools; and support for states to leverage Bipartisan Safer Communities Act funding to meet growing mental health and safety needs in schools. “To address years of decline in core areas like math and literacy, made worse by challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, it's vital for schools to focus relentlessly on strengthening instruction, providing targeted supports such as extended learning time, and working intentionally with families and caregivers to ensure our children and youth are present and fully engaged in school,” Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said. More information and resources on each new action can be found [here](#).

### **HOUSE PANEL MARKS UP HUNTING EDUCATION BILL, OTHER PROPOSALS**

On Thursday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a markup of several pieces of legislation, including [H.R. 4259](#), the *Think Differently about Education Act*; [H.R. 5349](#); the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act*; and [H.R. 5110](#), the *Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act*. H.R. 4259 requires government agencies to notify parents of their right to seek assistance from outside experts when determining the individual educational plan (IEP) for their child with disabilities; H.R. 5349 provides additional information to help teachers educate American schoolchildren about the political ideology of communism; and H.R. 5110 clarifies that a prohibition on the use of federal education funds for certain weapons included in last Congress’s *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* does not apply to training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports. “Every bill on the docket today is a clear-cut, commonsense proposal worthy of a yes vote,” said Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC). Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) felt differently, saying, “Today's Committee is marking up nine bills. Regrettably... some are also divisive and partisan and will undermine the economy and the economic security of workers, students and families.” He continued by saying that “these bills are a waste of the committee's time and they're unlikely to advance in the Senate or be signed into law.” He further criticized the Committee’s record this Congress under Republican leadership and pointed to several pieces of legislation that the panel should instead be considering. The most controversial measure, the House Resolution on Income Driven Repayment, passed the Committee by a vote of 23-19. The civic education bill addressing

communism passed by a vote of 33-9, while the additional two measures passed unanimously. More information is available [here](#).

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#### 4. New Publications

##### Findings from the 2022-23 National Partnership for Student Success Principal Survey

*National Partnership for Student Success* (September, 2023)

A comprehensive post-pandemic representative survey of public school principals fielded by the RAND Corporation in spring 2023 shows that the nation's schools are working hard to provide students with the people-powered supports they need to thrive in the wake of the pandemic.

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#### 5. In the News

##### It's Back to School for Cyber Gangs, Too

*The 74* (September 14, 2023)

##### With Thousands of Child Care Programs at Risk of Closing, Democrats Press for More Money

*ABC News* (September 12, 2023)

##### Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Completion of Nationwide Unlocking Pathways Summit Series

*U.S. Department of Education* (September 12, 2023)

##### Top NAEP Official Talks about the Future of Nation's Report Card and More

*EducationWeek* (September 11, 2023)

##### Virginia Governor Pardons Man Whose Arrest at a School Board Meeting Galvanized Conservatives

*ABC News* (September 10, 2023)

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### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

#### 6. Weekly Calendar

##### **Tuesday, September 18, 2023**

##### **Hearing: House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Chinese Influence in America's Classrooms**

**Subject:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee's Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "Academic Freedom under Attack: Loosening the CCP's Grip on America's Classrooms."

**Time:** 10:15 a.m.

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

## Thursday, September 21, 2023

### **Webinar: Homeroom with Education Leaders | Across the Aisle: Parent and Voter Priorities One Year from the ESSER Deadline**

**Subject:** This summer, The Hunt Institute conducted its annual nationwide survey of parents and voters on their perceived challenges and priorities in education. As the one-year Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) deadline approaches, join The Hunt Institute and national education and survey research leaders for this timely conversation around what matters most to families in education – literacy, workforce development, school safety, mental health, and more – and how state and district leaders can leverage remaining dollars and time to meet their priorities.

**Participants:** Bob Wise, former governor and congressman of West Virginia; Celinda Lake, president, Lake Research Partners; and Charlene Russel-Tucker, commissioner of education, Connecticut.

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**Registration:** Register [here](#).

### **Webinar: Addressing the Increase in Uncertified Teachers**

**Subject:** The Education Commission of the States will host a webinar discussion on how state and local leaders from Maine, Colorado and Nevada are working to address teacher shortages and place qualified teachers into classrooms.

**Participants:** Daniel Chuhta, deputy commissioner, Maine Department of Education; and Dwight D. Jones, former commissioner of education in Colorado and former superintendent of Clark County School District in Nevada.

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Registration:** Register [here](#).

### **Briefing: Beyond ESSER: How Federal Aid Is Helping Students Recover and What Schools Need Going Forward**

**Subject:** Chiefs for Change, a bipartisan network of district superintendents and state education leaders, will hold a briefing on federal pandemic aid and academic recovery.

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Capitol Visitor Center – CVC 209

**Registration:** Register [here](#).

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## 7. Future Hearings and Events

### Tuesday, September 26, 2023

#### **Webinar: Making the Grade: Solving the U.S. Math Problem**

**Subject:** The Hill will hold a discussion on “Making the Grade: Solving the U.S. Math Problem.”

**Participants:** Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN); Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL); Shalinee Sharma, CEO and co-founder, Zearn; Rebecka Peterson, 2023 national teacher of the year; and Josh Recio, course program specialist for secondary mathematics, University of Texas at Austin.

**Time:** 3:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Register [here](#).

### Wednesday, September 27, 2023

## **Webinar: Safe Schools, Thriving Students: School, District, State, and Federal Policy Lessons**

**Subject:** The Learning Policy Institute, co-sponsored by AASA, The School Superintendents Association and the Education Commission of the States, will host a webinar to discuss effective policy approaches and high-impact investments that can help create schools that foster student well-being and academic and social emotional learning.

**Participants:** Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), ranking member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce; Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Linda Darling-Hammond, president, Learning Policy Institute; Jennifer DePaoli, senior researcher, Learning Policy Institute; Jennifer McCombs, chief of research, Learning Policy Institute; Jacqueline Rodriguez, chief executive officer, National Center for Learning Disabilities; and Ivory Toldson, director of education innovation and research, NAACP.

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Registration:** Register [here](#).

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

### **Senate Floor:**

Consideration of nominations

**[H.R.4366](#)** - an act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024

### **House Floor:**

**[H.R. 1130](#)** - Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023

**[H. Res. 684](#)** - Condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms.

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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](#)

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

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

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## **10. 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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