



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

JUNE 5, 2023

Jared Solomon, Editor

jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com

Della Cronin, Editor

dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com

Bob Moran, Editor

rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com

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**
 - **Congress Prepared to Raise the Debt Ceiling. But K-12 Funding Is Still in Jeopardy**
EducationWeek (May, 31, 2023)
EducationWeek examines the potential impact debt ceiling legislation might have on K-12 education. While, K-12 schools appear to have averted the steepest possible cuts, they are not out of the woods yet.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
 - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
 - **Senate HELP Committee Holds Hearing on Solving Child Care Crisis:** On Wednesday, May 31, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions (HELP) hosted a hearing titled, “**Solving the Child Care Crisis: Meeting the Needs of Working Families and Child Care Workers.**” The hearing featured witnesses from a variety of direct service and child care policy areas and primarily focused on the potential end/renewal to child care stabilization grants and COVID-19 emergency funds supporting child care providers.

4. New Publications

- **Supporting Working Families: The Need for Ongoing Support for the Nation's Child Care Sector**

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (May, 2023)

Ahead of last Wednesday's hearing on the child care crisis, Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Patty Murray (D-WA) released a report on the worsening child care crisis and the imminent funding cliff. The report finds that if Congress fails to act before September 30, 2023, child care across the United States could become more expensive and more difficult to find.

5. In the News

- **Federal Rule on Trans Athletes Is Delayed. Here's What That Means for Schools**

EducationWeek (June 2, 2023)

- **Meet the House Members Who Voted Against the Debt Limit Deal**

Roll Call (June 1, 2023)

- **Inside the Christian Legal Campaign to Return Prayer to Public Schools**

The Hechinger Report (May 30, 2023)

- **Medicaid Change Could Mean More Funding for Special Ed Services**

Disability Scoop (May 25, 2023)

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

- **Markup: House Education and the Workforce Committee:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a markup of 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. 1147, the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023"; H.R. 2813, the "Self-Insurance Protection Act"; H.R. 2868, the "Association Health Plans Act"; and H.R. 824, the "Telehealth Benefit Expansion for Workers Act of 2023."

Tuesday at 10:15 am ET

- **Private School Choice Landscape:** FutureEd at Georgetown University will host a webinar to explore state legislative actions on school choice in 2023 and examine the impact both on individual student outcomes and the public education system.

Tuesday at 2pm ET

- **House Agriculture Committee on Potential SNAP/Food Assistance**

Modernization: The House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on "Innovation, Employment, Integrity, and Health: Opportunities for Modernization in Title IV."

Wednesday at 10am ET

- **Senate HELP Committee on Youth Mental Health Crisis:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on "Why Are So Many American Youth in a Mental Health Crisis? Exploring Causes and Solutions."

Thursday at 10am ET

7. Future Hearings & Events

- **State Efforts to Address Youth Substance Abuse**: The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) will host a webinar to examine youth substance abuse and mortality rates, how these risk-taking behaviors connect to the mental health crisis, and state actions to mitigate and support prevention of risk-taking behavior.
Wednesday, June 14 at 3pm ET

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

- **Senate floor**: Consideration of nominations
- **House floor**:
 - Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act
 - Save Our Gas Stoves Act
 - Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2023
 - REINS Act of 2023

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

10. **About BPAG**

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

FUNDING

CONGRESS PREPARED TO RAISE THE DEBT CEILING. BUT K-12 FUNDING IS STILL IN JEOPARDY

EducationWeek (May, 31, 2023)

In the lead up to the final vote on the deal to increase the debt limit, *EducationWeek* examined the potential impact debt ceiling legislation might have on K-12 education. While, K-12 schools appear to have averted the steepest possible cuts, they are not out of the woods yet. For instance, the House Republican's previous spending proposal included sharp cuts to Title I, the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), and other programs that serve K-12 schools. By comparison, the proposed across-the-board spending limits in the debt ceiling legislation will likely have more modest effects. Even so, education funding could suffer as a result. In the years following spending limits that were enacted to avert a comparable debt ceiling crisis in 2011, federal spending on education remained virtually flat, according to data collected by the Committee for Education Funding. Read more [here](#).

[*Back to top*](#)

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

Last week, the House and Senate passed legislation that would address the country's debt limit through 2025, apply spending limitations to the appropriations process, and rescind some funds from COVID-era relief bills. The House passed the **Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA)** on a bipartisan vote of 314-117 on Wednesday. The Senate did the same on Thursday by a vote of 63-36.

The FRA caps non-defense discretionary spending for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 at roughly \$704 billion, followed by a 1 percent increase in discretionary spending in FY 2025 and also includes a section that rescinds unspent funds from the various emergency COVID spending bills.

According to the Administration’s analysis, the total available for rescission in education accounts is \$391 million—a small amount when compared to the total of \$190 billion sent to states and districts.

The passage of the bill sets the stage for action on FY 2024 appropriations bills, and the House Appropriations Committee is expected to markup bills throughout the month of June. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill will still be among the last developed and debated, and education advocates will continue to make their case for adequate investments.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

Education advocates are concerned that the bill’s cap on non-defense discretionary spending will result in cuts to programs, when accounting for inflation, and damage efforts to address the needs of the country’s schools and students. The Committee for Education Funding (CEF) warns that the impact on Department of Education funding when tight non-defense discretionary caps were in place for FYs 2013 through 2021 could return. Education funding was cut and then took 6 years to return to the 2011 level in nominal dollars. Congress raised the caps every two years, generally providing a boost the first year and then flat funding the second year, and education funding declined the second year each time. CEF warns that the past may be a useful guide for what might lie ahead for appropriations for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

On the claw back of unspent COVID relief dollars, the law rescinds “unobligated balances” from the Education Stabilization Funds, which include the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER), and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEEFR). “Unobligated” means the funds not awarded to state and local governments. It applies to funds that are still sitting in the federal Treasury that were not allocated or available to the U.S. Department of Education for the administration and management of the accounts. It does not apply to the funds that the federal government has already awarded or “obligated” to state educational agencies and the flow-through awards to districts.

[Back to top.](#)

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON SOLVING THE CHILD CARE CRISIS

On Wednesday, May 31, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions (HELP) hosted a hearing titled, “[Solving the Child Care Crisis: Meeting the Needs of Working Families and Child Care Workers.](#)” The hearing featured witnesses from a variety of direct service and child care policy areas and primarily focused on the potential end/renewal to child care stabilization grants and COVID-19 emergency funds supporting child care providers. While the affordability of child care is largely a bipartisan issue, Democrats on the panel spoke highly of COVID-relief dollars and other federal funding designed to target the costliness of child care and pushed for the continuation of those funds, Republicans criticized excessive spending and pressed for more decentralized approaches, such as voucher programs. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) dedicated billions of dollars to increasing federal funds for child care during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to keep “200,000 child care providers in business, sustain child care for nearly 10 million kids, and prevent 1 million child care workers

from losing their jobs,” Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said in his opening remarks. The ARP funding for child care is set to expire September 30, 2023, and Sanders called for not only the continuation of those funds, but a new vision for universal, affordable child care as a right for every American. In his opening statement, Committee Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) disagreed that federal intervention and spending is the correct solution to the issue. He pointed to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which provides low-income families with vouchers to attend child care centers at a reduced or free price, and chastised his Democratic colleagues for proposing an overhaul of this existing structure in support of a “government-run child care system” in spite of evidence indicating parents often prefer informal child care arrangements. Cassidy, similar to the colleagues that followed him during questioning, expressed that he does not believe a one-size-fits-all model works for child care, and a parent-centered voucher system would be better fit to serve the flexibility needed when administering child care. Witnesses on the panel shared in detail how ARP dollars are being spent in their respective states to enhance child care systems and provide flexibility to families; articulated the crucial role of early childhood educators in providing for the needs of children and the need for increased investment in their work; and provided guiding principles that the HELP Committee can consider when formulating child care policies. The video of the hearing and witness testimony can be found [here](#). A full memo prepared by BPAG on the hearing can be viewed [here](#). Ahead of Wednesday’s hearing, Senators Sanders and Patty Murray (D-WA) released a report on the worsening child care crisis and the imminent funding cliff, which can be found [here](#). The report finds that if Congress fails to act before September 30, 2023, child care across the United States could become more expensive and more difficult to find.

[Back to top.](#)

4. New Publications

Supporting Working Families: The Need for Ongoing Support for the Nation’s Child Care Sector

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (May, 2023)

Ahead of last Wednesday’s hearing on the child care crisis, Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Patty Murray (D-WA) released a report on the worsening child care crisis and the imminent funding cliff. The report finds that if Congress fails to act before September 30, 2023, child care across the United States could become more expensive and more difficult to find.

[Back to top.](#)

5. In the News

Federal Rule on Trans Athletes Is Delayed. Here’s What That Means for Schools

EducationWeek (June 2, 2023)

Meet the House Members Who Voted Against the Debt Limit Deal

Roll Call (June 1, 2023)

Inside the Christian Legal Campaign to Return Prayer to Public Schools

The Hechinger Report (May 30, 2023)

Medicaid Change Could Mean More Funding for Special Ed Services

Disability Scoop (May 25, 2023)

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Markup: House Education and Workforce Committee

Subject: The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a markup of 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. 1147, the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023"; H.R. 2813, the "Self-Insurance Protection Act"; H.R. 2868, the "Association Health Plans Act"; and H.R. 824, the "Telehealth Benefit Expansion for Workers Act of 2023."

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

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

Webinar: Private School Choice Landscape

Subject: FutureEd at Georgetown University will host a webinar to explore state legislative actions on school choice in 2023 and examine the impact both on individual student outcomes and the public education system.

Participants: Liz Cohen, FutureEd; Sen. Breanne Davis (R-AR); Doug Harris, Tulane University; and Patricia Levesque, ExcelinEd.

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Hearing: House Agriculture Committee on Potential SNAP/Food Assistance Modernization

Subject: The House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on "Innovation, Employment, Integrity, and Health: Opportunities for Modernization in Title IV."

Time and Location: 10:00 a.m.; 1300 Longworth HOB.

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

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Hearing: Senate HELP Committee on Youth Mental Health Crisis

Subject: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on "Why Are So Many American Youth in a Mental Health Crisis? Exploring Causes and Solutions."

Time and Location: 10:00 a.m.; 430 Dirksen SOB.

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

7. Future Hearings and Events

Monday, June 12, 2023

Webinar: State Efforts to Address Youth Substance Abuse

Subject: The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) will host a webinar to examine youth substance abuse and mortality rates, how these risk-taking behaviors connect to the mental health crisis, and state actions to mitigate and support prevention of risk-taking behavior.

Participants: Joseph Hedger, NASBE (Moderator); Marci Feldman Hertz, associate director of program implementation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Overdose Prevention; Ioana Ungureanu, senior analyst of public and behavioral health integration, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; and Hanaleah Hoberman, senior advisor, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

[Back to top.](#)

8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of nominees

House Floor:

[H.R. 1615](#) - Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act

[H.R. 1640](#) - Save Our Gas Stoves Act

[H.R. 288](#) - Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2023

[H.R. 277](#) - REINS Act of 2023

[Back to top.](#)

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](#)

[Back to top.](#)

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](#).

•••

This publication contains links to Internet sites for the convenience of World Wide Web users. Bose is not responsible for the availability or content of these external sites, nor does Bose endorse, warrant or guarantee the information, services, or products described or offered at these other Internet sites. Copyright 2022. Bose Public Affairs Group. Redistribution of this memorandum or its content outside the immediate organization of the intended recipient without the express prior permission of Bose Public Affairs Group is prohibited. Readers are encouraged to send comments about this publication to dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com.