



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**

• **IDEA**

• **ED, Panel of Experts Continue Mental Health Awareness**

Conversation: On Tuesday, May 23, the Department of Education (ED) hosted its fourth webinar in a series designed to boost family engagement practices between schools and homes. Tuesday's webinar covered specific strategies to support student mental health and well-being and noted recent proposed rulemaking on the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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

• **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

• **ED Official Highlights Federal Resources for Youth Apprenticeship:**

On Tuesday, May 23, The Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA), New America and Advance CTE hosted a discussion with Luke Rhine, deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education at the Department of Education (ED).

• **ED, NASA Strengthen Partnership to Advance STEM and Space Education:**

On Wednesday, May 24, NASA and the Department of Education (ED) signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen partnership between the two

agencies, including efforts to increase access to high-quality STEM and space education to students and schools.

- **ED Shares Insights and Guidance for Artificial Intelligence:** On Wednesday, May 25, the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) published a **new report**, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations."
- **School Principals Raise Awareness on Teacher, Student Mental Health:** On Wednesday, May 24, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) held a webinar on centering mental health in schools to kick off its recently launched national campaign to raise awareness about the importance of student and educator mental health and advocate for policies that will support expanding mental health resources in schools.

4. **New Publications**

- **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning**
The U.S. Department of Education (May, 2023)
The Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) published a **new report**, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations." The 71-page report summarizes risks and opportunities for AI in education, research, and assessment based on public input and coincides with the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing effort to develop a consistent and comprehensive approach to AI-related challenges and opportunities.

5. **In the News**

- **U.S. Department of Education Launches Antisemitism Awareness Campaign**
U.S. Department of Education (May 25, 2023)
- **Surgeon General: More Safeguards Needed to Protect Youth from Social Media Misuse**
K-12 Dive (May 24, 2023)
- **Biden Administration Urges High Court to Reject Case on Legal Status of Charter Schools**
EducationWeek (May 23, 2023)
- **Education Department Weighs in on Conservative Book Bans in School Districts**
U.S. News (May 23, 2023)

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

- **Senate HELP Committee Hearing on Solving the Child Care Crisis:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on "Solving the Child Care Crisis: Meeting the Needs of Working Families and Child Care Workers."
Wednesday at 10am ET

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

- **Consideration of Debt Limit Extension**

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1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

ED, PANEL OF EXPERTS CONTINUE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CONVERSATION

On Tuesday, May 23, the Department of Education (ED) hosted its fourth webinar in a series designed to boost family engagement practices between schools and homes. Tuesday's webinar covered specific strategies to support student mental health and well-being. The event recognized National Mental Health Awareness Month and accentuated how schools are seeking better strategies and more support to promote student and staff well-being. The event opened with remarks from Katy Neas, deputy assistant secretary of ED's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, where she outlined three core ED priorities for mental health, which include increasing the capacity of mental health professionals already in schools; increasing the supply of mental health professionals who can work with students; and increasing funding through the Medicaid program to support school-based mental health services. She noted several recent federal actions meant to advance these key priorities, including funding through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), the most recent of which was **announced** last week; the release of a **comprehensive guide** to Medicaid services and claiming focused on school-based mental health; and the issuing of a **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** on the Individual with Disabilities Education act (IDEA) – the two latter actions were also announced last week. Following Neas' remarks, the webinar featured a diverse panel of education and mental health policy thought leaders, experts, academics, and educators that provided resources for integrating effective family engagement practices into their student mental health and well-being initiatives. Discussion centered on evidence-based and actionable strategies to support student well-being both in- and out-of-school; roles for families, schools, and community members to support social, emotional, and academic development; how to prioritize mental health from pre-K through college; and the effects of social media on youth emotional well-being.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

As of Friday afternoon, there was no agreement between House leaders and the White House on how to address the country's debt limit and Republican demands to cut federal spending. By Monday morning, Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and President Joe Biden finally reached **an agreement** to lift the debt limit for two years. **The Fiscal Responsibility Act** also cuts spending slightly, speeds permitting for energy projects, redirects \$20 billion from the IRS to other agencies, enacts some new requirements on food stamps and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and rescinds \$28 billion in unspent pandemic relief money. McCarthy voiced that he is committed to giving Members 72 hours to review the legislative language, which means passing a bill in the House and the Senate and having it signed by President Joe Biden by Thursday is a tall order.

The Rules Committee process and setting the parameters for debate remains one of the key hurdles this week. Opening up the bill to last-minute changes could kill it, meaning the Rules

Committee will likely determine that it will not be subject to amendments. The Rules Committee will meet at 3 p.m. Tuesday. A floor debate and vote is planned for Wednesday. Even then, party dynamics will ensure that getting the legislation out of Rules Committee will be another challenge. Three Republicans on the panel have stated publicly that they will not support the bill, meaning the remaining Republicans will need to rely on Democrat votes to get it through.

The vote count remains an additional challenge. McCarthy is confident that he could provide two-thirds of the vote total for this package, according to sources involved in the talks. This means every vote will count, and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) has a busy week ahead of him trying to persuade any GOP holdouts. Furthermore, Democrats want Republicans to count their votes and share that count. Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and others reportedly warned the White House that they shouldn't assume 80 to 100 Democrats will back any Biden-McCarthy deal for what they have characterized as a "manufactured crisis" forced upon the country by McCarthy and House Republicans. Even so, some moderate Democrats are reportedly likely to support the agreement. This would give Biden and House Democrats a large chunk of votes, and if McCarthy can ensure two-thirds of the vote total, he would then have the 218 votes needed for passage.

House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) postponed appropriations bill markups that were scheduled for last week since the parameters of the deal will clearly affect the allocations for bills. The Fiscal Responsibility Act cuts nondefense funding outside of veterans medical care by about \$42 billion or 7 percent below this year, to \$583 billion. Yet, given the claw back of some pandemic relief money and the redirection of IRS funds, the White House estimates nondefense, non-veterans spending would total \$637 billion in fiscal 2024 after "agreed-upon adjustments." Education advocates still worry that the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill will bear the brunt of any cuts.

Depending on how this week goes, the Senate might have to work well into the weekend to beat the June 5 deadline.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

On appropriations, The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending plan will surely be one of—if not the—last bills marked up, and will only be allocated what is left after the other bills are approved. Depending on the level, that could be devastating for education investments. It's worth noting, however, in meetings with Democratic staff on Capitol Hill, advocates were assured that whatever the House does with education spending, it will not be the final level and what is enacted. The Senate will not stand for deep cuts to the programs, nor will the White House. Regardless, a year-long continuing resolution with some kind of across-the-board cut is still a strong contender for a final solution sometime later this year. There will be much drama to report on before any final solution. On the potential of a debt ceiling breach, *EducationWeek* [dove into](#) what it could mean for schools, saying, "If a default happens before July 1, the federal government might be unable to distribute billions of dollars for high-need students, special education services, and English-language instruction. Because school districts—many of which have already set their budgets for the coming year—count on those funds, teacher layoffs, academic program cuts, and administrative chaos could ensue." Read more [here](#).

3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED OFFICIAL HIGHLIGHTS FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

On Tuesday, May 23, The Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA), New America and Advance CTE hosted a discussion with Luke Rhine, deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education at the Department of Education (ED). The conversation also featured Julissa Disu from the Rhode Island Governor’s Workforce Board and Tony Harrell, director of the Indiana Governor’s Workforce Cabinet. The event presented opportunities for leveraging federal resources to support youth apprenticeship and work-based learning as part of a more comprehensive career preparation system. Rhine elaborated on apprenticeship program resources that most people might not be aware of, as well as how the Biden-Harris Administration is seeking to expand youth apprenticeship and work-based learning and the impact of these initiatives in the field. Rhine pointed to Education Secretary Miguel Cardona’s “[Raise the Bar, Lead the World](#)” campaign, which includes six key initiatives centered on how the Administration is thinking about K-12 education. One of these six, Rhine stated, is the Unlocking Career Success Initiative (UCSI), which “seeks to reimagine how high schools prepare youth for higher education and entering into a career.” Rhine dove into the four pillars of UCSI to reform high school career readiness and accented the UCSI [landing page](#), which contains many of the resources he underscored. He stated that the UCSI’s four pillars are made up of already existing pieces of policy that states and communities across the country utilize. “Our hope is really to build off the work that exists in the field and make sure that these opportunities, these four policy levers, are universal regardless of the high school that you attend or the community in which you live,” Rhine stated. Disu followed with an overview of the approach the Rhode Island Governor’s Workforce Board (RIGWB) developed to support K-12 students, which she explained is fully compatible with youth apprenticeships. She additionally noted how the RIGWB supports youth apprenticeships by adopting policies in K-12 education to eliminate seat time for academic credit and by requiring that all schools state-wide have a policy to recognize work-based learning as a form of academic credit. On leveraging funding streams, Disu explained how the RIGWB completes a joint Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and [Perkins V State Plan](#), which has allowed the Board to align the state’s workforce and K-12 systems. Harrell elaborated on how Indiana has used Perkins Leadership funding to build out youth apprenticeship programs, not only by developing model program guidance but also establishing regional apprenticeship workshops through local intermediaries. Harrell additionally pointed out that the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet utilizes state funds that are tied to enrollments in CTE courses, which includes a registered apprenticeship course. A video of the webinar can be found [here](#).

ED, NASA STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE STEM AND SPACE EDUCATION

On Wednesday, May 24, NASA and the Department of Education (ED) signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen partnership between the two agencies, including efforts to increase access to high-quality STEM and space education to students and schools. ED and NASA have historically collaborated on STEM education programs and initiatives, and this new agreement will expand their dual efforts to promote science, technology, engineering, and math education to students from diverse backgrounds so that more are presented with opportunities to advance their interests in STEM and increase STEM career pathways, particularly in space

industries. “It reinforces the importance of Biden-Harris Administration priorities for STEM, climate, space exploration, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility,” the press release says. “I am proud that our agencies will continue to intentionally collaborate to enrich STEM teaching and learning in America’s classrooms; expand access to high-quality, hands-on career, technical, and space education; increase the capacity and diversity of our nation’s STEM educator workforce; and so much more,” said Education Secretary Miguel Cardona. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson also provided a statement, saying, “Today’s signing, with the support of Vice President Harris and the National Space Council, continues NASA’s collaborative efforts with the Department of Education to amplify the excitement of space to all students across our country, allowing every young person to know they are a part of the Artemis Generation – today and for decades to come.” You can learn more about NASA’s Office of STEM engagement [here](#) and ED efforts [here](#).

ED SHARES INSIGHTS AND GUIDANCE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

On Wednesday, May 25, the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) published a [new report](#), "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations." The 71-page report summarizes risks and opportunities for AI in education, research, and assessment based on public input and coincides with the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing effort to develop a consistent and comprehensive approach to AI-related challenges and opportunities. “The new report addresses the clear need for sharing knowledge, engaging educators and communities, and refining technology plans and policies for AI use in education,” the [press release](#) says. “It recognizes AI as a rapidly advancing set of technologies that can enable new forms of interaction between educators and students, help educators address variability in learning, increase feedback loops, and support educators.” The report also outlines AI-related risks, which includes algorithmic bias and the importance of trust, safety, and sufficient protections for educators and students. The Education Department will be holding a public webinar on June 13 to highlight the report and the Agency’s efforts to support information sharing and supporting policies for AI. You can register for the webinar [here](#).

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS RAISE AWARENESS ON TEACHER, STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

On Wednesday, May 24, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) held a webinar on centering mental health in schools to kick off its recently launched national campaign to raise awareness about the importance of student and educator mental health and advocate for policies that will support expanding mental health resources in schools. A panel of school leaders, students, and experts discussed the current state of student and educator mental health and policies stakeholders can advocate for to improve the tools available to K-12 schools. The panel featured Jen Silva, NASSP external relations Director; Elizabeth Connolly, assistant director for public health at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Jen Waite, youth market national lead for the American Heart Association; Caren Howard, policy and advocacy director for Mental Health America; Aaron Eycler, principal of Matawan Regional High School in New Jersey; and John Geis, principal of Shelby High School in Ohio. Silva first outlined several 2023 legislative items that NASSP is following, which included the [Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act](#); [Supporting the Mental Health of Educators and Staff Act](#); and the [Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act](#). She also highlighted several 2024 Education Department (ED) budget priorities, such as Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A. Connolly stressed the importance of this issue for the White House,

outlined numerous Agency resources, and provided an overview of the ONDCP’s efforts to combat drug abuse, with a particular focus on the intersection of mental well-being and substance use through an equity lens. Howard followed, focusing on “moving upstream” to prevention and early intervention. She highlighted Mental Health America’s new online screening program, which screens for psychosis, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, ADHD and other conditions. Much of this effort focuses on helping lawmakers understand the 12 year gap that exists between when signs and symptoms present and when an individual seeks care. “Closing that gap means we need more mental health education in schools and more accommodations and supports that precede services,” Howard said. Waite noted that the American Heart Association (AHA) is focused on physical, emotional, psychological, and social health. She highlighted AHA’s 45 years of work with schools on **Kids Heart Challenge Programs**, as well as a teacher well-being toolkit they have created that will be released this summer. “Kids are the most important, but teachers are the most valuable,” Waite stated. Waite similarly underscored several additional AHA resource items, particularly related to tobacco-free initiatives. Eyer pointed out the “unique lens” of school principals where they are seeing the cross section of mental well-being and substance use first hand among young people. He also called attention to anti-bullying measures in New Jersey and pressed for helping students disconnect from the virtual world more often. Lastly, John Geis focused on issues with vaping in schools and its effects on mental well-being and shared specific experiences from his efforts in Ohio. A video of the recording can be found [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning

The U.S. department of Education (May, 2023)

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5. In the News

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EducationWeek (May 23, 2023)

Education Department Weighs in on Conservative Book Bans in School Districts

U.S. News (May 23, 2023)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Hearing: Senate HELP Committee on Solving the Child Care Crisis

Subject: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on "Solving the Child Care Crisis: Meeting the Needs of Working Families and Child Care Workers."

Witnesses: Lauren Hogan , managing director of policy and professional advancement, National Association for the Education of Young Children; Kathryn Larin, director in education, workforce, and income security, Government Accountability Office; Cheryl Morman, family child care provider and president, Virginia Alliance for Family Child Care Associations, Elizabeth Groginsky, cabinet secretary, New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department; and Carrie Lukas, president, Independent Women's Forum.

Time: 10:00 a.m. ET

Registration: Live stream available [here](#)

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7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: Consideration of debt limit extension

House Floor: Consideration of debt limit extension

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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](#)

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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:

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