



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

**JUNE 12, 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**

- **Teacher-Principal Training and Recruitment - ED Announces Grants to Address Student Well-Being, Teacher Success**: This week, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** funding opportunities to support student well-being through full-service community schools and address educator recruitment, retention, and career advancement.
- **Child Nutrition - House Agriculture Committee Holds Hearing on Potential SNAP Modernization**: On Wednesday, June 7, the House Agriculture Committee hosted a **hearing** titled, “Innovation, Employment, Integrity, and Health: Opportunities for Modernization in Title IV.” The hearing focused on Farm Bill nutrition programs and follows contentious negotiations on debt limit legislation from the previous week that significantly relied on agreeing to certain changes to the Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

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

- **Senate HELP Explores Causes, Solution to Youth Mental Health Crisis**: On Thursday, June 8, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a **hearing** titled, “Why Are So Many American Youth in a Mental Health

Crisis? Exploring Causes and Solutions.” The hearing addressed rising suicide rates among young people and widening gaps in mental health care accessibility.

#### 4. New Publications

- **Section 504 Plans: Examining Inequitable Access and Misuse**  
*National Education Policy Center, University of Colorado (June, 2023)*
- **School District and Community Factors Associated with Learning Loss During the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
*Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University (May, 2023)*
- **Progress in Spending Federal K-12 COVID Aid: State By State**  
*Future Ed (May, 2023)*

#### 5. In the News

- **Democrats Look to Spend Their Way out of School Culture Wars**  
*Politico (June 6, 2023)*
- **Chairman Jordan Expands Investigation into Biden Targeting Parents at School Board Meetings**  
*U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee (June, 6, 2023)*
- **Former Education Secretary to Lead Bipartisan Policy Center**  
*The Hill (June 5, 2023)*
- **Schools Received Billions in Stimulus Funds. It May Not Be Doing Enough**  
*The New York Times (June 5, 2023)*
- **IES Director Mark Schneider Talks Education Research and the Future of Schools**  
*The 74 (June 5, 2023)*
- **EPA and Congressional Officials Encourage Grant Applications for Zero Emission School Buses**  
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (June 5, 2023)*

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

- **How the Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Early Development:** The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on “Early Efforts: Place Matters - How the Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Early Development”  
*Monday at 2pm ET*
- **House Education and Workforce Committee on HHS Priorities:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Health and Human Services."  
*Tuesday at 10:15am ET*
- **Leverage New Funding Sources with Data-Informed Practices:** Panorama Education and EducationWeek will host a webinar for school district leaders to discuss new funding for initiatives to support the whole child well past the ESSER cliff.  
*Tuesday at 2pm ET*
- **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 at 3pm ET*

7. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
  - **Senate Floor: Consideration of nominations**
  - **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
8. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**
9. **About BPAG**

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## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

#### HOUSE AG COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON POTENTIAL SNAP MODERNIZATION

This week, the Department of Education (ED) **announced** funding opportunities to support student well-being through full-service community schools and address educator recruitment, retention, and career advancement. On Wednesday, the ED released a Notice Inviting Applications for the fiscal year 2023 Full-Service Community Schools grant program that supports academic acceleration and provides academic and whole child supports to build and strengthen connections between schools, parents, families, and their surrounding communities. The program advances Secretary Cardona’s Raise the Bar initiative and enhances community-based resources to support student’s academic advancement and mental health. The following day, ED also **announced** the availability of more than \$368 million in new grant opportunities through the **Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program** and the **Teacher and School Leader (TSL) Incentive program** that increases investments in teacher recruitment and retention. The Department states that these grant programs are tied to increased compensation and specifically prioritize educator diversity, career advancement, and leadership opportunities for effective educators. More information on the Full-Service Community Schools grant program can be found **here**. More information on the EIR and TSL is **here**.

### CHILD NUTRITION

#### HOUSE AG COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON POTENTIAL SNAP MODERNIZATION

On Wednesday, June 7, the House Agriculture Committee hosted a **hearing** titled, “Innovation, Employment, Integrity, and Health: Opportunities for Modernization in Title IV.” The hearing focused on Farm Bill nutrition programs and follows contentious negotiations on debt limit legislation from the previous week that significantly relied on agreeing to certain changes to the Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The **witness panel** featured doctors and executives representing different areas of children and family services, food banks, and agriculture. Witness testimony primarily addressed accessibility to SNAP, progressing employment through SNAP, and access to healthy food options through SNAP by agricultural advancement. Republicans on the panel pushed for the modernization of

food assistance programs through connecting individuals on these programs to employers, creating a healthy food safety net, and being able to individualize these services to those in need. Meanwhile, Committee Democrats mainly spoke to the accessibility of SNAP programs and how Congress can more effectively deliver it to individuals with disabilities, minorities, and veterans. Committee Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA) stated in his [opening remarks](#) that “we must continue to continuously explore how to serve eligible recipients through innovation and flexibility.” Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA) agreed with most points made by Chair Thompson, but reiterated that “Democrats stand united against any efforts to take food away from veterans, from children, or any families that are vulnerable in America.” Following witness testimony, Committee members posed a variety of questions spanning from monthly dollar allowances for SNAP participants to raising the overall health net of foods in the SNAP system. At the hearing’s conclusion, witnesses and Committee members agreed that by focusing on the principle of innovating SNAP programs rather than partisan politics, substantial policy changes will be successfully implemented into the 2023 Farm Bill.

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

In the wake of the enactment of the [Fiscal Responsibility Act](#), House Republicans are deciding how to proceed with the development and consideration of FY 2024 appropriations bills. Even though the legislation applies statutory caps for FY 2024 and 2025 for defense and non-defense discretionary funding, GOP leadership is still debating internally whether the non-defense cap is too high. They are reportedly considering producing FY 2024 appropriations bills that do not exceed FY 2022 levels. That would be bad news for education advocates.

Before the debt limit negotiations were complete, House appropriators had marked up four of the twelve government funding bills. House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) reportedly plans to decide by the end of this week when to restart the process of producing and marking up bills, and what the total level of spending will be. That means House markups could start this week or next week. The Senate has not announced its schedule, but the Senate Appropriations Committee chair and ranking member had previously signaled plans to mark up all twelve bills and to work collaboratively. The House doesn’t necessarily share those goals.

In the meantime, this week, the House Education and the Workforce Committee will turn to higher education issues as the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development hosts [a hearing](#) titled, “Postsecondary Innovation: Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Opportunities.” Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) has said she’d like to pursue higher education policy changes this Congress; this hearing will likely reveal some themes for those efforts.

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

Education advocates are bracing for a House-proposed Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill that will almost certainly have no increases for education. In fact, this is a year when level funding might be considered a win for many programs. Of course, there are many months between now and when FY 2024 spending will be resolved, so stakeholders will continue to make their case throughout the summer and fall.

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

#### **SENATE HELP EXPLORES CAUSES, SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS**

On Thursday, June 8, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a [hearing](#) titled, “Why Are So Many American Youth in a Mental Health Crisis? Exploring Causes and Solutions.” The hearing addressed rising suicide rates among young people and widening gaps in mental health care accessibility. It also adds to a [live discussion](#) on youth mental health that Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) held in April with U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. Murthy, along with Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Deputy Assistant Secretary Katherine Neas, testified during the first half of Thursday’s hearing. Murthy expressed serious concern about social media’s harmful impact on youth mental health and pointed to data showing that youth who spend more than three hours a day on social media face double the risk of experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety. Neas shared Department of Education intervention efforts and voiced the critical need for schools to expand school-based mental health services and ensure that all learning occurs in safe and supportive environments. A second witness panel featured state education officials from Connecticut, Washington, and Louisiana to highlight successful solutions from their respective states. Chairman Sanders’ opening remarks outlined troubling statistics that shed light on the issue and called on Congress to “get its act together,” stating that it is Congress’ job to address the crisis. Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) underscored similar data, yet emphasized recent action that Congress has taken to improve mental healthcare access and pressed that Congress see this work through and measure its effectiveness before assessing remaining gaps. “Pretending that Congress has not done anything to address youth mental health and that we must start anew ignores our responsibility to make sure the support we have already approved is being used effectively,” Cassidy stated. As is customary, the hearing also touched on partisan and controversial topics largely related to LGBTQ+ adolescents and transgender youth. A recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

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### **4. New Publications**

#### **[Section 504 Plans: Examining Inequitable Access and Misuse](#)**

*National Education Policy Center, University of Colorado (June, 2023)*

#### **[School District and Community Factors Associated with Learning Loss During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)**

*Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University (May, 2023)*

#### **[Progress in Spending Federal K-12 COVID Aid: State by State](#)**

*Future Ed (May, 2023)*

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### **5. In the News**

#### **[Democrats Look to Spend Their Way out of School Culture Wars](#)**

*Politico (June 6, 2023)*

**Chairman Jordan Expands Investigation into Biden Targeting Parents at School Board Meetings**

*U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee* (June 6, 2023)

**Former Education Secretary to Lead Bipartisan Policy Center**

*The Hill* (June 5, 2023)

**Schools Received Billions in Stimulus Funds. It May Not Be Doing Enough.**

*The New York Times* (June 5, 2023)

**IES Director Mark Schneider Talks Education Research and the Future of Schools**

*The 74* (June 5, 2023)

**EPA and Congressional Officials Encourage Grant Applications for Zero Emission School Buses**

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (June 5, 2023)

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## **THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON**

### **6. Weekly Calendar**

#### **Monday, June 12, 2023**

**Webinar: Hunt Institute on Early Efforts--How the Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Early Development**

**Subject:** The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar on “Early Efforts: Place Matters - How the Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Early Development”

**Panelists:** Dr. Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, director, Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy, Brandeis University; Dr. Lindsey Burghardt, chief science officer, Harvard Center on the Developing Child; Dr. Caitlin Gould, environmental health scientist, U.S. EPA, Climate Change Division.

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

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

#### **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

**Hearing: House Education and Workforce Committee on HHS Priorities**

**Subject:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Health and Human Services."

**Witness:** Xavier Becerra, secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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

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

**Webinar: Leverage New Funding Sources with Data-Informed Practices**

**Subject:** Panorama Education—in partnership with EducationWeek—will hold a webinar high district leaders on how remaining funding can support address the whole child using data-informed practices and help districts achieve their long-term goals.

**Participants:** Brianne McCarthy (moderator), account director, Panorama Education; Darlene Markman, assistant superintendent of curriculum, Bergenfield Borough School District (NJ); and Lindsey Gregg, director of teaching and learning, Talawanda School District (OH).

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

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

### **Wednesday, June 14, 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](#).

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

**Senate Floor:** Consideration of nominations

**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

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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](#)

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

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[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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