



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.

While Congress is in recess for the month of August, BPAG will publish a scaled back version of the weekly Education Report, and full updates will return on Monday, September 11, 2023.

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 – Teacher Loan Forgiveness, One National Strategy for Solving Educator Shortages, Isn't Working](#)**

Chalkbeat (July 31, 2023)

Chalkbeat reports that new research suggests that the federal government's educator debt forgiveness program is not keeping teachers in the classroom and is likely not attracting new ones. Researchers say the program's complexity limits its reach, and few teachers take advantage of it each year. "The bottom line: One of the few tools that the federal government has deployed to combat teacher shortages doesn't seem to be making much of a difference," the article claims.

- **[Child Nutrition – Food Fight in Congress: How a Bitter Battle for SNAP Benefits in the Farm Bill Affects You](#)**

USA Today (August 7, 2023)

USA Today examines how popular food assistance programs are becoming a major point of contention in a divided Congress as lawmakers work to hammer

out a farm bill, must-pass legislation up for reauthorization every five years that addresses agricultural policy, including nutrition.

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

- **ED Announces Key K-12 Cybersecurity Resilience Efforts**: The Department of Education (ED) announced last week key K-12 cybersecurity resilience efforts, which include the upcoming establishment of a Government Coordinating Council (GCC), as well as the release of the Department’s three K-12 Digital Infrastructure briefs, including “K-12 Digital Infrastructure Brief: Defensible and Resilient”, which was co-authored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

3. **New Publications**

- **The State of Ransomware in Education 2023**

Sophos (July, 2023)

This study revealed that the rate of ransomware attacks in education continues to rise; 80 percent of lower education providers and 79 percent of higher education providers reported that they were hit by ransomware in the last year, up from 56 percent and 64 percent, respectively, in the Sophos 2022 survey.

4. **In the News**

- **Enrollment, Funding, Supply Chain Issues Throw Wrench into School Construction Projects**

K-12 Dive (August 2, 2023)

- **Why Disability Advocate are Concerned about School Resource Officers**

Nashville Scene (August 2, 2023)

- **What’s the Purpose of Standards in Education? An Explainer**

EducationWeek (July 31, 2023)

5. **Weekly Calendar - Future Hearings & Events**

- **How One School District Improved Its Literacy Outcomes**: This *K-12 Dive* webinar will explore the advantages of a digital collection, as shown in the correlation between higher reading test scores and adoption of eBooks and audiobooks in school districts.

Tuesday, August 15 at 2pm ET

- **Educator and Administrator Retention – The Ultimate School Improvement Strategy**: During this Hunt Institute webinar, attendees will have the opportunity to hear more from experts who are studying principal retention and leaders who are implementing change to create a stronger school community for principals and educators.

Thursday, August 17 at 2pm ET

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

7. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

TEACHER-PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS ISN'T WORKING, SAYS CHALKBEAT REPORTER

Chalkbeat (July 31, 2023)

Chalkbeat reports that new research suggests that the federal government's educator debt forgiveness program is not keeping teachers in the classroom and is likely not attracting new ones. Researchers say the program's complexity limits its reach, and few teachers take advantage of it each year. "The bottom line: one of the few tools that the federal government has deployed to combat teacher shortages doesn't seem to be making much of a difference," the article claims. "The program has really good intentions," said Brian Jacob, a professor at the University of Michigan and coauthor of the study. But, ultimately, "it's not effective as it's currently structured." [Read more.](#)

CHILD NUTRITION

FOOD FIGHT IN CONGRESS: HOW A BITTER BATTLE FOR SNAP BENEFITS IN THE FARM BILL AFFECTS YOU

USA Today examines how popular food assistance programs are becoming a major point of contention in a divided Congress as lawmakers work to hammer out a farm bill, must-pass legislation up for reauthorization every five years that addresses agricultural policy, including nutrition. The bill's 2018 version is set to expire Sept. 30 and it is unclear if lawmakers will be able to pass a new version before that deadline. [Read more.](#)

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2. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED ANNOUNCES KEY K-12 CYBERSECURITY RESILIENCE EFFORTS

The Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) last week key K-12 cybersecurity resilience efforts, which include the upcoming establishment of a Government Coordinating Council (GCC), as well as the release of the Department's three K-12 Digital Infrastructure briefs, including "[K-12 Digital Infrastructure Brief: Defensible and Resilient](#)", which was co-authored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). These efforts were [announced](#) alongside a White House Back to School Safety Cybersecurity [Summit](#) for K-12 Schools. "Let's face it: in today's digital age, our students and their teachers will increasingly use technology in the classroom. Schools have access to more devices and connectivity than ever before, and this technology in education has incredible potential to help students better connect with their learning and achieve, and teachers better engage with their students," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "But to make the most of these benefits, we must effectively manage the risks. Just as we expect everyone in a school system to plan and prepare for physical risks, we must now also ensure everyone helps plan and prepare for digital risks in our schools and classrooms. The Department of Education has listened to the field about the importance of K-12 cybersecurity, and today we are coming together to recognize this and indicate our next steps." The additional two K-12 Digital Infrastructure briefs being released by the Department today include "[Adequate and Future-Proof](#)" and "[Privacy-Enhancing, Interoperable and Useful.](#)"

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3. New Publications

The State of Ransomware in Education 2023

Sophos (July, 2023)

This study revealed that the rate of ransomware attacks in education continues to rise; 80 percent of lower education providers and 79 percent of higher education providers reported that they were hit by ransomware in the last year, up from 56 percent and 64 percent, respectively, in the Sophos 2022 survey. “Shoddy cybersecurity practices and a willingness to pay ransom demands have made school districts ripe for online exploitation, new data suggest. In fact, they’ve become the single leading target for hackers,” The74 [reports](#), in response to the survey results.

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4. In the News

Enrollment, Funding, Supply Chain Issues Throw Wrench into School Construction Projects

K-12 Dive (August 2, 2023)

Why Disability Advocates are concerned about School Resource Officers

Nashville Scene (August 2, 2023)

What’s the Purpose of Standards in Education? An Explainer

EducationWeek (July 31, 2023)

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5. Weekly Calendar – Future Hearings and Events

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

How One School District Improved Its Literacy Outcomes

Subject: This *K-12 Dive* webinar will explore the advantages of a digital collection, as shown in the correlation between higher reading test scores and adoption of eBooks and audiobooks in school districts.

Participants: Tiffany Goldschmidt, secondary curriculum supervisor, Baldwin County Public Schools; Danny Lapchak, account manager, OverDrive

Time/Location: 2pm ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Educator and Administrator Retention: The Ultimate School Improvement Strategy

Subject: The Hunt Institute will give attendees the opportunity to hear more from experts who are studying principal retention and leaders who are implementing change to create a stronger school community for principals and educators.

Participants: Stephanie Banchemo, education and economic mobility program director, The Joyce Foundation; Margie Vandeven, commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Keilani Goggins, director, Black Educators Initiative, National Center for Teacher Residencies

Time/Location: 2pm ET

Registration: Register [here](#).

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6. 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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7. 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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- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

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