



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

**AUGUST 14, 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.

*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, August 11, 2023.*

**Please use the bookmarks below to navigate to your area of interest:**

1. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **Biden Administration Launches New K-12 Cybersecurity Efforts:** On Monday, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas joined First Lady Jill Biden to convene school administrators, educators and private sector companies to discuss best practices and new resources available to strengthen schools' cybersecurity, protect American families and schools, and prevent cyberattacks from disrupting classrooms.
  - **Sen. Murray Announces Youth Homelessness Legislation:** The legislation Senator Murray announced last week, the Preventing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Act, would create two new grant programs for upstream interventions that help reduce the likelihood that individuals will experience homelessness in the first place.
  - **Ed Launches Career-Connected High School Grant Program:** Last week, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the launch of a new \$25 million Career Connected High School Grant program.
  
2. **New Publications**
  - **Policies to Increase Teacher Diversity**

*National Council on Teacher Quality (August, 2023)*

States' efforts to address teacher shortages do little to recruit and retain teachers of color, according to a report released last week by the National Council on Teacher Quality.

3. **In the News**

- **Connecticut School District Lost More Than \$6 Million in Cyber Attack, So Far Gotten about Half Back**

*The Associated Press (August 10, 2023)*

- **As Schools Turn to Tech for Mental Health Support, the Best Solution Might Be More Analog**

*EdSurge (August 9, 2023)*

- **Charter School Funding Averages 30% Less Than Traditional Public Schools**

*K-12 Dive (August 9, 2023)*

- **Schools May Have a Long Way to Go to Protect Against Cyberattacks**

*The Washington Post (August 9, 2023)*

- **Dems Target School Boards – and the Right Cheers**

*Politico (August 7, 2023)*

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

- **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 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 at 2pm ET*

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

6. **About BPAG**

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

**BIDEN ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES NEW K-12 CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS**

On Monday, August 7, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas **joined** First Lady Jill Biden to convene school administrators, educators and private sector companies to discuss best practices and new resources available to strengthen schools' cybersecurity, protect American families and schools, and prevent cyberattacks from disrupting classrooms. The Administration's press release states, "According to a 2022 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, the loss of learning following a

cyberattack ranged from three days to three weeks, and recovery time can take anywhere from two to nine months. Further, the monetary losses to school districts following a cyber-incident ranged from \$50,000 to \$1 million. That is why the Biden-Harris Administration has had a relentless focus on securing our nation’s critical infrastructure since day one, and continues to work tirelessly to provide resources that enable the U.S.’s more than 13,000 school districts to better protect and defend their students and employees against cyberattacks.” This announcement follows one from the previous week, which included 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). Additional administrative and industry actions are outlined [here](#).

### **SEN. MURRAY ANNOUNCES YOUTH HOMELESSNESS LEGISLATION**

While attending an event at the ROOTS Young Adult Shelter in Washington State on August 8, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) announced the introduction of the *Preventing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Act*, which would create two new grant programs for upstream interventions that help reduce the likelihood that individuals will experience homelessness in the first place. The grant programs would fund local programs that help prevent youth homelessness—for example, a resource helpline, casework management, or support groups for youth or young adults and their families who are at risk of homelessness—as well as help entities assess the causes and the extent of youth homelessness within their communities. Murray’s new legislation will build off the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#) she helped establish in 2016 by addressing the conditions that contribute to youth homelessness and providing effective resources and support for young people and families who need them. Read more [here](#).

### **ED LAUNCHES CAREER-CONNECTED HIGH SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM**

On Thursday, August 10, while participating in the [Unlocking Pathways Summit](#) in Aurora, Colorado, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona [announced](#) the launch of a new \$25 million Career Connected High School Grant program. This program will provide grants to consortia of local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and employers to pilot evidence-based strategies to increase the integration and alignment of the last two years of high school and the first two years of postsecondary education to improve postsecondary education and career outcomes for all students. These grants are part of the [Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success initiative](#), aimed at helping young Americans access good-paying jobs. This cross-government effort seeks to increase and expand access to high-quality career pathways to help young Americans pursue jobs in today’s in-demand fields and be prepared for careers of the future. Grantees can use funds for a variety of different activities based on the need of the region, including additional dual enrollment classes, covering the costs of tuition, books, supplies, and other related expenses for low-income students, tutoring, other academic supports, transportation for students to work-based learning sites, the development of new career & technical education (CTE) programs in high-growth fields like clean energy or to support teacher training and new equipment that may be needed to launch these programs. The notice inviting applications (NIA) is [here](#).

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## 2. New Publications

### Policies to Increase Teacher Diversity

*National Council on Teacher Quality* (August, 2023)

States' efforts to address teacher shortages do little to recruit and retain teachers of color, according to a [report](#) released last week by the National Council on Teacher Quality.

While 46 states established or funded high school pipeline programs, for example, only 21 did so to attract more teachers of color. Of 34 states funding scholarships for teacher candidates, only 17 are directly aimed at diversifying the teaching profession. Retention efforts for teachers of color are also lagging, according to NCTQ. Thirty-six states have funded or created state retention programs, but only 14 have a specific focus on retaining teachers of color.

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## 3. In the News

### Connecticut School District Lost More Than \$6 Million in Cyber Attack, So Far Gotten about Half Back

*The Associated Press* (August 10, 2023)

### As Schools Turn to Tech for Mental Health Support, the Best Solution Might Be More Analog

*EdSurge* (August 9, 2023)

### Charter School Funding Averages 30% Less Than Traditional Public Schools

*K-12 Dive* (August 9, 2023)

### Schools May Have a Long Way to Go to Protect Against Cyberattacks

*The Washington Post* (August 9, 2023)

### Dems Target School Boards – and the Right Cheers

*Politico* (August 7, 2023)

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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### 4. Weekly Calendar

#### **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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**5. 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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**6. 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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