



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](#)**
 - **[Child Nutrition - Updating school nutrition standards could save 10,600 lives per year](#)**: As the Department of Agriculture considers final rules to gradually tighten school nutrition guidance, a recent study found updating K-12 nutrition standards for added sugars, sodium, and whole grain would improve children's diets, blood pressure and body mass index.
2. **[In Brief – Last Week in Washington](#)**
 - **[ED, DHS, HHS, DOJ Launch School Safety Campaign, Publish Safety Resources](#)**: On August 17, the Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice Department, launched a public awareness campaign to highlight federal school safety resources and evidence-based practices available through SchoolSafety.gov.
3. **[New Publications](#)**
 - **[K-12 Cybersecurity Challenges: Battling Cyber Threats](#)**
Prey Project (August, 2023)

This e-book addresses how to boost cybersecurity awareness and protect schools with simple and easy-to-learn tips on threat origins to develop an eye for security weak spots; cybersecurity strategies to detect, prevent and respond; training and awareness to boost staff knowledge and process documentation; budget allocations for effective cybersecurity measures; and more.

- **Keys to the Classroom: Alternative teacher pathways remove barriers for diverse teacher candidates**

Study.com (August, 2023)

Study.com released a debut Keys to the Classroom report that finds aspiring educators, especially those from more diverse backgrounds, are more likely to attain teacher licensure when provided guided pathways and access to resources and support for their certification exams.

4. **In the News**

- **Beshear Touts Universal Pre-K, Large Teacher Pay Raise in New Education Budget Plan**

WHAS 11 ABC (August 16, 2023)

- **Federal Proposal Could Reshape How Districts Accommodate Pregnant Employees**

K-12 Dive (August 16, 2023)

- **One year in, what has the White House tutoring initiative accomplished?**

K-12 Dive (August 16, 2023)

- **Why Schools Across America are Building Teacher Housing**

Axios (August 13, 2023)

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

6. **About BPAG**

1. **COSSBA Policy Priorities**

CHILD NUTRITION

UPDATING SCHOOL NUTRITION STANDARDS COULD SAVE 10,600 LIVES PER YEAR

As the Department of Agriculture considers final rules to gradually tighten school nutrition guidance, a **recent study** found updating K-12 nutrition standards for added sugars, sodium and whole grain would improve children's diets, blood pressure, and body mass index. If schools implemented new nutrition standards aligned with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the change would "modestly reduce" the amount of added sugars and sodium children eat, while also increasing their whole grain consumption, according to the study, which was published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. It also found that 10,600 deaths per year tied to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer could be prevented in the long term if school meal standards matched current national dietary guidelines. Moreover, the move would

save \$19.3 billion in annual healthcare costs in adulthood, according to the study's results. [More here.](#)

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2. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED, OTHERS LAUNCH SCHOOL SAFETY CAMPAIGN, PUBLISH SAFETY RESOURCES

On August 17, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the Departments of Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Justice (DOJ), [launched](#) a public awareness campaign to highlight federal school safety resources and evidence-based practices available through [SchoolSafety.gov](#). The initiative advances the benefits of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and is one of several new actions the Biden-Harris Administration is taking to support safer schools and communities. Through the campaign, the Administration will educate school administrators and personnel, teachers, parents and guardians, and state and local government officials about school safety resources available at [SchoolSafety.gov](#). “The campaign is being launched for the back-to-school season to ensure schools have the tools they need to create and sustain welcoming, safe, and supportive learning environments for students and educators,” the press release states. “Student and educator safety remains our priority. I want all school and district leaders, educators and staff, and students and families to know that [SchoolSafety.gov](#) is the one-stop shop for accessing resources and evidence-based approaches for building safe schools and positive learning environments,” said Education Secretary Miguel Cardona. “We’re pairing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act’s historic investments in school safety and student mental health and wellbeing with easily accessible information on everything from responding to cyber bullying and preventing violence to improving emergency preparedness and accessing federal grants. The Department of Education and our partners across the Biden-Harris Administration want every school’s back-to-school season to be one of joy, possibility, and safety.” Learn more about the [SchoolSafety.gov Back-to-School Campaign here.](#)

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3. New Publications

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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

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