



# The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

**April 29, 2024**

Jared Solomon, Editor

[jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:jsolomon@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Della Cronin, Editor

[dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Bob Moran, Editor

[rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:rmoran@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Sarah Lamson, Deputy Editor

[slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com)

*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**
  - **Child Nutrition**
    - **USDA Updates School Nutrition Standards**: On Wednesday, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service published a final rule titled, “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” which is the Agency’s next step in continuing its “science-based improvement” of school meals and other USDA Child Nutrition Programs.
  - **Funding**
    - **Invitation for Grant Applications**: The Department of Education published a notice inviting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program Competition; the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program competition; and the FY 2024 Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
  - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **New Publications**
  - **2023 Progress Report on the Implementation of the Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Strategic Plan**

*The White House Office of Science and Technology (April 2024)*

This progress report provides Congress and the wider STEM education community with an update on the federal activities that occurred from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023.

- **A Nation at Risk +40: A Review of Progress in US Public Education**

*Hoover Institution (April 2024)*

The chapters in this series each tackle a distinct area of school reform that emerged in response to the needs described in *A Nation at Risk* and makes recommendations for policymakers. The publication evaluates evidence and determines what can be learned from four decades of effort to transform the nation's schools.

#### 4. **In the News**

- **Nonprofits Take a Hit in House Earmark Rules**

*Roll Call (April 25, 2024)*

- **Biden Administration Toughens School Nutrition Standards**

*US News (April 24, 2024)*

- **Tennessee's Universal School Voucher Plan is Dead for Now, Governor Acknowledges**

*Chalkbeat (April 22, 2024)*

- **Sending College Students into Classrooms to Help Our Struggling Students Could Be a Winning Post-Pandemic Solution**

*The Hechinger Report (April 22, 2024)*

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

- **The Decisive Decade? Mapping Key Trends Among Adolescents and Young Adults in the US:** Brookings will hold a webinar to dig into the key trends over recent years for adolescents and young adults, as well as discussing likely causes and potential solutions.

*Monday at 2:15pm ET*

- **How AI is Being Deployed:** PunchBowl News will hold a discussion on "The AI Impact," focusing on "how AI is being deployed in cybersecurity, health care and scientific development, education and the workforce and small businesses."

*Tuesday at 8:30am ET*

- **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on President's FY25 Education Budget:** The Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "A Review of the President's 2025 Budget Request for the Department of Education."

*Tuesday at 10am ET*

- **Summit on Education: Reset. Reframe. Reform:** The Center for American Progress will hold a two-day event exploring a path toward creating a strong progressive agenda for education.

*Begins Wednesday at 9am ET*

- **Senate Commerce Committee Markup:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a markup of the "Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2023"; the "Protecting Kids on Social Media Act"; the "Youth Poisoning

Protection Act"; the "Creating Resources for Every American To Experiment with Artificial Intelligence (CREATE AI) Act of 2023"; and the "Future of AI Innovation Act."

*Wednesday at 10am ET*

- **The Conservative Vision for Improving Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education**: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual book discussion on "Getting Education Right: A Conservative Vision for Improving Early Childhood, K-12, and College."

*Wednesday at 4pm ET*

## 6. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **Connecting Learning to Earning**: The Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion on "Connecting Learning to Earning."

*May 9 at 9am ET*

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

### • **Senate floor**

- **H.R.3935**, An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes
- **Consideration of nominations**

### • **House floor**

- **H.R. 529** – Extending Limits of U.S. Customs Waters Act (Sponsored by Rep. Waltz / Ways and Means Committee)
- **H.R. 3195** – Superior National Forest Restoration Act (Sponsored by Rep. Stauber / Natural Resources Committee)
- **H.R. 764** – Trust the Science Act (Sponsored by Rep. Boebert / Natural Resources Committee)
- **H.R. 615** – Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023 (Sponsored by Rep. Wittman / Natural Resources Committee)
- **H.R. 3397** – Western Economic Security Today Act of 2024 (Sponsored by Rep. Curtis / Natural Resources Committee)
- **H. Res. 1112** – Denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies (Sponsored by Rep. Gonzales (TX) / Judiciary Committee)
- **H.R. 6090** – Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023 (Sponsored by Rep. Lawler / Judiciary Committee)
- **H.R. 2925** – Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2024 (Sponsored by Rep. Amodei / Natural Resources Committee)
- **H.R. 6285** – Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023 (Sponsored by Rep. Stauber / Natural Resources Committee)

## 8. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**

## 9. **About BPAG**

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## 1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

### CHILD NUTRITION

#### USDA UPDATES SCHOOL NUTRITION STANDARDS

On Wednesday, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) **published** a final rule titled, "Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans," which is the Agency's next step in continuing its "science-based improvement" of school meals and other USDA Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). The final rule also advances USDA's commitment to nutrition security, the **rule summary** states. The changes are based on a comprehensive review of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025, robust stakeholder input on the CNP meal patterns, and lessons learned from prior rulemakings. While this rulemaking is effective July 1, 2024, USDA is gradually phasing in required changes over time. The update restricts added sugars from school meals nationwide, with small adjustments beginning in fall 2025 and full implementation required by fall 2027. Sodium content will also need to be slightly reduced in school meals by fall 2027. In addition, USDA's new sugar limits state that breakfast cereals cannot have more than six grams of sugar per dry ounce; yogurt may not have more than 2 grams of added sugars per ounce; and by the 2027-28 school year, a weekly dietary limit will be implemented requiring that added sugars make up less than ten percent of calories throughout the week in school breakfast and lunch programs. There will also be a new limit on added sugars in flavored milk. Notably, the final rule does not include any changes to nutrition standards regarding whole grains, as it has suggested in its proposal. The final rule is **here**, and a summary is **here**.

### FUNDING

#### EXTENDED DEADLINE – MENTAL HEALTH GRANT APPLICATIONS

On March 1, the Department of Education (ED) **published a notice** inviting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) Grant Program competition and the Mental Health Service Professional (MHSP) Demonstration Grant Program competition. **The application deadline for all eligible applicants for both programs has been extended to May 31, 2024.** On March 21, the ED also **published a notice** inviting applications for the FY 2024 Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities--The National Center for Systemic Improvement competition. The application deadline is May 22, 2024 and more information can be found **here**. Applications for SBMH can be found **here** and applications for MHSP can be found **here**.

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## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The House and Senate were scheduled to be in recess last week, but the Senate returned to Washington on Tuesday to approve the national security package the House passed last weekend. The package provides roughly \$26 billion for Israel, \$61 billion for Ukraine, and \$8 billion for allies in the Indo-Pacific. A fourth bill included in the package **would force a US ban of TikTok** if its Chinese parent company doesn't sell it; impose sanctions on Russia, China and Iran; and seize Russian assets to help Ukraine rebuild from the war's damage. President Biden signed the measure quickly, and assured allies that assistance would be arriving quickly.

During the break, newly elected House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) continued to provide his colleagues guidance on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations process. In [a Dear Colleague Letter](#), he shared that due to the shortened timeline for the process, he would largely be maintaining the guidance for Community Project Funding from the FY 2024 process, which unfortunately excluded “earmarks” for education related projects in the House bill.

In his most recent role on the committee, Rep. Cole chaired the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development spending subcommittee during the FY 2024 process. That subcommittee ran into partisan fights over project funds that supported the LGBTQ community—fights that required the subcommittee to stop proceedings amid passionate debates.

The guidance from Chairman Cole includes deadlines that will have House offices and advocates in a rush to submit requests in short order. Congress returns this week for a four-week work period before the Memorial Day recess. Those weeks will be full of appropriations work for so many who work on and off Capitol Hill.

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

Chairman Cole’s FY 2025 appropriations guidance precludes project funding in the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill. (The Senate will likely continue to let Senators seek funds for community projects in their version of the bill.) He also said, “One notable change is that non-profits are no longer eligible for Community Project Funding in the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) account [of the Department of Housing and Urban Development]. Similar to previous reforms made in this Congress, this change aims to ensure projects are consistent with the community development goals of the federal program.” House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) characterized the announcement as one that represents a “seismic shift” and would block funding for YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and other critical community programs – many who provide afterschool or out of school time programs.

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### **3. New Publications**

#### **2023 Progress Report on the Implementation of the Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Strategic Plan**

*The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (April 2024)*

This progress report provides Congress and the wider STEM education community with an update on the federal activities that occurred from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023.

#### **A Nation at Risk +40: A Review of Progress in US Public Education**

*Hoover Institution (April 2024)*

The chapters in this series each tackle a distinct area of school reform that emerged in response to the needs described in *A Nation at Risk* and makes recommendations for policymakers. The publication evaluates evidence and determines what can be learned from four decades of effort to transform the nation’s schools.

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#### 4. In the News

##### Nonprofits Take a Hit in House Earmark Rules

*Roll Call* (April 25, 2024)

##### Biden Administration Toughens School Nutrition Standards

*US News* (April 24, 2024)

##### Tennessee's Universal School Voucher Plan is Dead for Now, Governor Acknowledges

*Chalkbeat* (April 22, 2024)

##### Sending College Students into Classrooms to Help Our Struggling Students Could Be A Winning Post-Pandemic Solution

*The Hechinger Report* (April 22, 2024)

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## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### 5. Weekly Calendar

#### Monday, April 29, 2024

**Event:** Brookings --The Decisive Decade? Mapping Key Trends Among Adolescents and Young Adults in the US.

**Subject:** Brookings will hold a webinar to dig into the key trends over recent years for adolescents and young adults, as well as discussing likely causes and potential solutions.

**Participants:** Tara Watson, director, Center for Economic Security and Opportunity, Brookings; Richard Reeves, president, American Institute for Boys and Men; Ember Smith, former research analyst, Center on Children and Families; Lara Akin, distinguished professor, Simon Fraser University; Ian Rowe, founder and ceo, Vertex Partnership Academies; Jonathan Zaff, research professor and director, CERES Institute for Children and Youth, Boston University.

**Time and Location:** 2:15 p.m.

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

#### Tuesday, April 30, 2024

**Event:** How AI is Being Deployed

**Subject:** PunchBowl News will hold a discussion on "The AI Impact," focusing on "how AI is being deployed in cybersecurity, health care and scientific development, education and the workforce and small businesses."

**Participants:** Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD); Kent Walker, president of global affairs, Google; and Anna Palmer, CEO, PunchBowl News.

**Time and Location:** 8:30 a.m.; InterContinental Washington D.C., 801 Wharf Street SW, Washington, D.C.

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

**Hearing:** Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on President's FY25 Education Budget

**Subject:** The Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing on "A Review of the President's 2025 Budget Request for the Department of Education."

**Witness:** Miguel Cardona, secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 138 Dirksen SOB.

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

### **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

#### **Event: Summit on Education: Reset. Reframe. Reform**

**Subject:** Bringing together researchers, advocates, and policymakers from across the education continuum—early childhood, K-12 education, higher education, and workforce development—this two-day summit sponsored by the Center for American Progress will explore a path toward creating a strong progressive agenda for education.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Registration:** Register and full agenda [here](#).

#### **Markup: Senate Commerce Committee**

**Subject:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a markup of the "Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2023"; the "Protecting Kids on Social Media Act"; the "Youth Poisoning Protection Act"; the "Creating Resources for Every American To Experiment with Artificial Intelligence (CREATE AI) Act of 2023"; and the "Future of AI Innovation Act."

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 253 Russell SOB.

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

#### **Webinar: The Conservative Vision for Improving Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education**

**Subject:** The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual book discussion on "Getting Education Right: A Conservative Vision for Improving Early Childhood, K-12, and College."

**Participants:** Michael McShane, adjunct fellow, AEI; Wayne Lewis Jr., president, Houghton University; Andy Smarick, senior fellow, Manhattan Institute; Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies, AEI; and Beth Akers, senior fellow, AEI.

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

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

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## **6. Future Hearings and Events**

### **Thursday, May 9, 2024**

#### **Webinar: Connecting Learning to Earning**

**Subject:** The Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion on "Connecting Learning to Earning."

**Participants:** Tom Kaye, senior adviser in global programmes, Generation Unlimited; Michael Trucano, visiting fellow in global economy and development, Brookings Institution's Center for Universal Education; Colin Reynolds, senior education designer, Education Design Lab; William O'Keefe, policy officer, European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market,

Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises; and Juan Baron, senior economist in education global practice, World Bank Group.

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

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

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## 7. On The Floor of Congress This Week

### Senate Floor:

- [H.R.3935](#), An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes
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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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### 10. **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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