



## The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

**JUNE 18, 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**
    - **House Appropriations Subcommittee Marks Up USDA Funding Bill:** On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee considered and approved its Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) bill.
2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
  - **Impact on State School Board Associations**
3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
  - **Century Foundation Presents New Dual Language Framework:** On Tuesday, The Century Foundation hosted a webinar titled, “Equitable Access, High Quality Programming: A New Framework for Dual Language Education.”
  - **HELP Committee Examines Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:** On Wednesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee held a hearing titled, “The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Supporting Efforts to Meet the Needs of Youth, Workers, and Employers.”
  - **Brookings Examines Technology Impact on Children, Parental Influence:** On Wednesday, the Brookings Institution hosted a webinar titled, “Screens and Children’s Well-Being: The Latest Evidence of Technology’s Impact on Mental Health and Education.”

- **Alliance for Learning Innovation Examines How Research May Address Challenges, Opportunities:** On Thursday, the Alliance for Learning Innovation held a standing room only event to discuss how education research and development can turn today's learning challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.
4. **New Publications**
- **Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program: System's Starting Guide**  
*Chiefs for Change (May 2024)*  
This report walks through challenges and opportunities for establishing registered teacher apprenticeships.
5. **In the News**
- **FCC Approves \$200M K-12 Cybersecurity Pilot**  
*US Federal Communications Commission (June 6, 2024)*
  - **Louisiana May Require Public Schools to Display Ten Commandments**  
*The Republic (June 8, 2024)*
  - **Chronic Absenteeism Rates Almost Doubled During Pandemic**  
*K-12 Dive (June 10, 2024)*
  - **IT Leaders Are Optimistic About Cybersecurity**  
*EdTech Magazine (June 11, 2024)*
6. **Weekly Calendar - What's coming up this week?**
- **Fostering Integration in Early Childhood Settings: Implications for Policy:**  
The Century Foundation, New America, Learning Policy Institute and Southern Education Foundation will hold a webinar event, "Fostering Integration in Early Childhood Settings: Implications for Policy."  
*Tuesday at 12pm ET*
  - **Senate Education Committee on Challenges Facing Public School Teachers:**  
The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a hearing on "The Immediate and Long-Term Challenges Facing Public School Teachers: Low Pay, Teacher Shortages, and Underfunded Public Schools."  
*Thursday at 9am ET*
  - **Disability Rights in the US Schooling System:** Washington Post Live will hold a virtual discussion on "An Assessment of Disability Rights in the U.S. Schooling System."  
*Thursday at 11am ET*
  - **Heritage Foundation on New Title IX Rule:** : The Heritage Foundation will hold an event to discuss their views of the new Title IX rule published by the U.S. Department of Education.  
*Thursday at 11am ET*
7. **Future Hearings & Events**
- **Navigating the Teacher Workforce After COVID Relief:** The American Institutes for Research (AIR) will hold a webinar on new data on how ESSER funding affected school district staffing and what it means going forward for teachers, students, and equity.  
*June 26 at 1pm ET*

- **House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup of FY25 Labor-HHS, Education Bill**: The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a markup of the FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill.  
*June 27*

8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**

- **Senate floor**: Consideration of nominations
- **House floor**: In recess

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

10. **About BPAG**

**1. COSSBA Policy Priorities**

**CHILD NUTRITION**

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MARKS UP USDA FUNDING BILL**

On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee considered and approved its Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) bill. The subcommittee-passed bill would provide \$25.9 billion to agencies and programs it covers, \$355 million below the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) enacted level and \$2.69 billion below the **President’s Budget Request**. It provides \$22 billion to USDA, \$308 million less than FY24 and \$2.5 billion below the President’s Budget Request. The measure includes mandatory funding for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Summer Food Programs and level funding for programs that support US land-grant universities. Furthermore, it provides \$7.235 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which is \$205 million above the FY24 enacted level and \$123.16 billion in mandatory funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), an increase of \$777.6 million – both increases account for inflation. Subcommittee Chairman Andy Harris (R-MD) provided in his opening **remarks** that the legislation “invests in rural communities, expands access to broadband, provides nutrition assistance to those in need, and ensures that American consumers have a safe food and drug supply.” Full Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) criticized Chair Harris and Republican colleagues for introducing funding bills that “do not adhere to the law and cannot become law.” She countered that the bill puts food assistance at risk for vulnerable Americans, particularly women and children, and jeopardizes pediatric health. Regarding the bill’s jurisdiction over funding for land-grant universities, Subcommittee Ranking Member Sanford Bishop (D-GA) applauded investments in 1890 and 1994 lang-grant universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions but noted that they have been flat-funded since Fiscal Year 2023, resulting in a “steady decline for USDA, research, education and extension activities overall.” The full House Appropriations Committee plans to consider the bill July 10,

where the path to passage is not clear, if this year's proceedings look anything like FY24's. A summary of the bill is [here](#), and bill text is [here](#). A recording of the markup is [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

---

## 2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The communications team for the House Appropriations Committee was busy last week, as the panel approved additional spending bills. [A number of press releases](#) detail the Committee's progress toward Chairman Tom Cole's (R-OK) goal of completing Committee consideration of all 12 FY 2025 spending bills by the end of July. The full Committee approved the Homeland Security and State and Foreign Operations bills.

While Chairman Cole is focused on FY 2025 spending, Republican leadership is looking ahead to 2025 optimistically. Last week, there were a number of convenings, including separate House and Senate GOP meetings with presumed presidential candidate Donald Trump, [to plan for a would-be Republican sweep of the White House, Senate and House](#). Regulatory reform and tax cuts are at the top of the party's to-do list, with [budget reconciliation](#) a hoped-for vehicle. Those hopes rely on Election Day results, of course.

Outside of spending issues, education advocates were heartened by a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee [hearing on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) this week](#). Earlier this year, the House passed a bipartisan bill to revise WIOA. If the Senate develops its own bipartisan plan, there is a chance an update could be approved by the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress during what is expected to be a productive lame duck session. The Committee is going to tackle a number of thorny education issues this week as well. [A hearing](#) titled, "The Immediate and Long-Term Challenges Facing Public School Teachers: Low Pay, Teacher Shortages, and Underfunded Public Schools," is scheduled for Thursday morning.

The House is in recess this week while the Senate remains in session. The opposite will be true next week with both chambers leaving town the week of Independence Day. The number of legislative days before the August recess are dwindling. Opinions vary on whether that's good or bad.

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

The FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) bill is expected to see subcommittee consideration the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>, assuming Subcommittee Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) is able to develop a bill that will win support from all of his Republican colleagues. Full Committee debate is tentatively scheduled for the second week of July.

Chairman Cole has served as chair of the LHHS Subcommittee himself and knows the bill's challenges. Last week, he said he is relying on the panel's current leader to produce a bill, saying to reporters that he is allowing the subcommittee chairs to write their own bills without him. Of the LHHS bill, he said, "**I think the Department of Education, honestly, has been consistently overfunded** and tries to regulate too much from Washington, DC, and not allow the states with maximum flexibility on particularly the use of federal dollars which are quite often used as a weapon," adding, "I've got strong views on the issue, but I'll leave it to Chairman Aderholt and his subcommittee to work through it and see what they've got."

---

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

#### **CENTURY FOUNDATION PRESENTS NEW DUAL LANGUAGE FRAMEWORK**

On Tuesday, The Century Foundation hosted a [webinar](#) titled, “Equitable Access, High Quality Programming: A New Framework for Dual Language Education.” The panel featured Dr. Shantel Meek and Dr. Xigris Soto-Boykin with the Children’s Equity Project at Arizona State University; Dr. Conor Williams, senior fellow at the Century Foundation; and Gladys Montes, former director of United Way of Miami. The panelists agreed that national education standards are not addressing the needs of students and educators in bilingual education programs. Dr. Williams stated that the number of English Learners (ELs) has increased greatly over the past two decades, citing a [2023 article from the Century Foundation](#). But according to Dr. Williams, although the number of ELs in the US has increased greatly, the nationwide bilingual teacher shortage continues to persist. There are not enough bilingual teachers in the US to meet this increasing demand of EL students, he stated. The panel also discussed the importance of dual-language immersion (DLI) programs, which are programs in communities that go beyond the surface level of having a non-English speaking teacher in schools. The panel agreed that there needs to be a larger structural focus on the quality and quantity of bilingual education, where ELs are not just taught how to speak English but are taught in a way that embraces their unique heritage along with learning about American culture. The panel emphasized the need for structural change, which should be led by educational and political leaders across the United States. Policymakers need to invest in more programs that train bilingual teachers along with making dual language programs more equitable to ELs. They concluded that the path forward, however, must come from local, state, and federal leaders. In their view, there should be more of an emphasis on training bilingual teachers as well as offering more DLI programs in diverse districts across the country.

#### **HELP COMMITTEE EXAMINES WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT**

On Wednesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee held a hearing titled, “The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Supporting Efforts to Meet the Needs of Youth, Workers, and Employers.” First passed in 2014 and expired in 2020, the bipartisan *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) is designed to expand high-quality employment opportunities for workers in the United States through education, training, and support services. WIOA funds critical programs such as reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals, migrant and farmworker workforce development programs, opportunities for youth, and training and placement services for dislocated workers. Committee Members heard from the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship’s Taylor White; Jobs for the Future’s Dr. David Bradley; Dr. Monty Sullivan with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System; and Chicago Jobs Council’s Dr. Lisa Bly-Jones. Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) stated that in the 10 years since the bill’s passage, the United States has experienced “monumental changes,” pointing to the COVID-19 pandemic and technology advancements. He added that more jobs these days require education beyond a high school degree. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a lead negotiator in 2014, stated, “There is no question we can do it again, and it is way past time to build on that progress so we can keep our economy strong, and put the American worker first.” Committee Ranking Member Bill Cassidy noted that WIOA reauthorization is “long overdue” and ongoing efforts are bipartisan, although Senators and witnesses agreed that improvements are needed. Sullivan called for increased funding, saying that both WIOA and Pell Grant dollars are lagging

behind workforce demands. He and Bly-Jones appealed the panel to expand Pell to short-term programs. Bradley agreed that current levels of funding are inadequate, and White argued that the reauthorization should include increased federal investment in youth opportunities, particularly ages 16-24. Meanwhile, Bly-Jones pointed to increased support for wraparound services as a necessity. Furthermore, the witness panel agreed that better data is needed and a reauthorized WIOA should provide states and communities with more flexibility in how they develop their programs. Witness written testimony and a recording of Wednesday's Senate hearing is [here](#). The Senate's timeline for considering WIOA is unclear. The House [passed](#) a bipartisan WIOA reauthorization earlier this year.

### **BROOKINGS EXAMINES TECHNOLOGY IMPACT ON CHILDREN, PARENTAL INFLUENCE**

On Wednesday, the Brookings Institution hosted a [webinar](#) titled, "Screens and Children's Well-Being: The Latest Evidence of Technology's Impact on Mental Health and Education." Rebecca Winthrop, director of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institution, began by providing a broad overview of the research on student engagement within the digital world, stating that there are several negative impacts of technology in schools along with many positive aspects as well. In her view, "it is less about the tool, more about how the tool is being used." Others on the first panel referred to the issue as an "epidemic" in younger generations. Dr. Michael Rich, founder and director of Digital Wellness Lab at the Boston Children's Hospital, stated that in his profession, most patients say they are turning to technology as an outlet, mirroring their parents' behaviors in the home. In his experience, a child's unhealthy addiction to screen time is the result of parents being disengaged because of their use of technology. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, fellow for the center for universal education at Brookings Institution, added that humans "are a very social species." She pointed to studies showing that children build important structures mentally from an early age and that the interactions that help mold them in their infancy have effects on them later in life – such as the abundance of technology use in the household. Elizabeth Milovidov, founder of DigitalParentingCoach.com, went further, stating that although healthy habits start at very early stages of a child's life, there is a disconnect from parents unwilling to have conversations about their kid's use or overuse of technology. The second panel examined the disconnect inside the classroom, noting how the attention spans in young kids have decreased greatly. Phil Mcrae, executive staff officer and associate coordinator for Alberta's Teacher's Association, further argued that social media is causing the decline in mental health in kids and underscored an Alberta, Canada law that prohibits smartphones in schools during educational time. The second panel also agreed that relationships between students and teachers are diminishing, particularly in low-income districts. Both panels argued that there will be large changes in the educational world soon, but the way forward for parents, teachers, and students alike will not be the same for every school in every country. There is an evident mental health crisis with younger generations, they concluded, but the process of disconnecting kids from their phones and helping build – or rebuild – the ability to foster in-person relationships is unique for every child around the world.

### **ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING INNOVATION EXAMINES HOW RESEARCH MAY ADDRESS CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES**

On Thursday, the Alliance for Learning Innovation held a standing room only event to discuss how education research and development can turn today's learning challenges into tomorrow's opportunities. Dan Correa and Sara Schapiro from Federation of American Scientists opened the event by outlining that the coalition launched a year ago with the goal of making the case for new tools and practices to improve student outcomes. The first panel gave concrete descriptions of how

education research can have positive impacts for students if research can be developed and implemented into practice. Dr. Carey Wright, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, described how she used education research and development to improve teaching, which lead to better outcomes for students in Mississippi. Working with philanthropy, she plans to apply the same model to improve outcomes for students in Maryland. Other panelists stressed the need to put equity at the center of education research and development, which includes survey methods and design. They added that challenges faced by schools and districts—pandemic learning loss and chronic absenteeism—are opportunities to raise the bar for students. Dr. Matt Soldner, acting director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) described his vision for IES as being an architect that promotes research that is inclusive, innovative, and responsive to education challenges. Dr. Erwin Gianchandani, assistant director of the Directorate of Technology Innovation and Partnerships at the National Science Foundation (NSF) described how the “[Computer Science for All Act](#)” and a small \$10 million investment for teaching computer science led to tangible outcomes that improved equity in education. In 2017, 55,000 students took the advanced placement exam for computer science, but today 150,000 students are taking the exam, many of them female and students of color.

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

#### **4. New Publications**

##### **[Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program: System’s Starting Guide](#)**

*Chiefs for Change* (May 2024)

This report walks through challenges and opportunities for establishing registered teacher apprenticeships.

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

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

##### **[FCC Approves \\$200M K-12 Cybersecurity Pilot](#)**

US Federal Communications Commission (June 6, 2024)

##### **[Louisiana May Require Public Schools to Display Ten Commandments](#)**

*The Republic* (June 8, 2024)

##### **[Chronic Absenteeism Rates Almost Doubled During Pandemic](#)**

*K-12 Dive* (June 10, 2024)

##### **[IT Leaders Are Optimistic About Cybersecurity](#)**

*EdTech Magazine* (June 11, 2024)

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

### **THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON**

#### **6. Weekly Calendar**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

**Webinar: Fostering Integration in Early Childhood Settings: Implications for Policy**

**Subject:** The Century Foundation, New America, Learning Policy Institute and Southern Education Foundation will hold a webinar event, "Fostering Integration in Early Childhood Settings: Implications for Policy."

**Participants:** Miriam Calderón, chief policy officer, Zero to Three; Bernadine Futrell, deputy assistant secretary, Equity and Discretionary Grants and Support Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education; Martha Lee, senior director of early childhood, Educational Alliance at the Manny Cantor Center; Shantel Meek, founding executive director and professor of practice, Children's Equity Project; Sara Plasencia, Policy Advisor, Learning Policy Institute; and Casey Stockstill, assistant professor, Dartmouth College.

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

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

#### **Thursday, June 20, 2024**

##### **Hearing: Senate Education Committee on Challenges Facing Public School Teachers**

**Subject:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will hold a hearing on "The Immediate and Long-Term Challenges Facing Public School Teachers: Low Pay, Teacher Shortages, and Underfunded Public Schools."

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

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

##### **Webinar: Disability Rights in the US Schooling System**

**Subject:** Washington Post Live will hold a virtual discussion on "An Assessment of Disability Rights in the U.S. Schooling System."

**Participants:** Miguel Cardona, secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO, National Center for Learning Disabilities; and Rebecca Cokley, program officer, Ford Foundation.

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

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

##### **Event: Heritage Foundation on New Title IX Rule**

**Subject:** The Heritage Foundation will hold an event to discuss their views of the new Title IX rule published by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Participants:** Ron DeSantis, governor, State of Florida; Tiffany Justice, founder, Moms for Liberty; Ryan Walters, superintendent of public instruction, Oklahoma; Paula Scanlan, former college athlete and Independent Women's Forum ambassador; Kim Hermann, executive director, Southeastern Legal Foundation; Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill (R); and Montana Solicitor General Christian Corrigan (R).

**Time and Location:** 11:00 a.m.; Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C.

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

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

## **7. Future Hearings and Events**

### **Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

**Webinar: Navigating the Teacher Workforce After COVID Relief**



**Subject:** The American Institutes for Research (AIR) will hold a webinar on new data on how ESSER funding affected school district staffing and what it means going forward for teachers, students, and equity.

**Participants:** Dan Goldhaber, director, Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER), American Institutes for Research.

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

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

## Thursday, June 27, 2024

### Markup: House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup of FY25 Labor-HHS, Education Bill

**Subject:** The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a markup of the FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill.

**Time:** TBD

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

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

## 8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

**Senate Floor:** Consideration of nominations

**House Floor:** In recess

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

## 9. Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events

[U.S. House and Senate 2024 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](#)

[\*Back to top.\*](#)

---

## 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](#).

•••

*This publication contains links to Internet sites for the convenience of World Wide Web users. Bose is not responsible for the availability or content of these external sites, nor does Bose endorse, warrant or guarantee the information, services, or products described or offered at these other Internet sites. Copyright 2022. Bose Public Affairs Group. Redistribution of this memorandum or its content outside the immediate organization of the intended recipient without the express prior permission of Bose Public Affairs Group is prohibited. Readers are encouraged to send comments about this publication to [dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com).*