The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

September 28, 2026

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

1. **COSSBA Advocacy Actions**
   - **COSSBA Urges ED To Revise Proposed Changes To Its Grant Regulations:** In a September 14 letter, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) urged the Department of Education to revise proposed changes to its grant regulations. COSSBA supports oversight and responsible use of federal funds but argues that districts need predictable funding to hire staff, sign contracts, budget across years, and maintain services for students.

2. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**
   - **School Nutrition**
     - **Senate Agriculture Committee Advances Farm Bill**: On September 16, the Senate Agriculture Committee advanced its version of the Farm Bill on a 12–11 party-line vote. The House Agriculture Committee previously approved its legislation, and the full House passed the measure in April.

3. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**
   - **Impact on State School Board Associations**

4. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
   - **Education Department Releases Learning Agenda Playbook:** On September 9, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) launched a Learning Agenda Playbook designed to help state education agencies identify priorities, evaluate evidence, and direct resources toward strategies that improve student outcomes.

- **Semafor Hosts Forum on Youth Well-Being with Congress Members:** On September 15, Semafor hosted a forum on youth well-being that opened with a discussion between Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Kevin Kiley (I-CA). Both raised concerns about AI's effects on student cognition, citing research on "cognitive shrinking" among young AI users.
- **ED Issues Dear Colleague on Strengthening Civic Education:** On September 16, the Department of Education issued a Dear Colleague Letter urging education leaders and teachers to strengthen civic education and provide students with routine opportunities to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Reagan Institute Summit Examines Technology's Impact on Learning:** On September 17, the Reagan Institute hosted its annual summit on education, which featured a panel titled "The Reckoning: Technology's Promise and Peril in Learning," during which panelists assessed the implications of both comprehensive AI bans and unrestricted classroom use.
- **ED Expands Workforce Pell and Approves Mississippi, Florida Waiver**: The Department of Education expanded Workforce Pell and EdFlex waivers last week in its effort to give states and students more flexibility in education and career preparation.
- **HHS Explains Trump Administration's Head Start Overhaul:** On Tuesday, the American Enterprise Institute hosted a discussion on the Trump administration's proposed overhaul of the Head Start program. Daniel Buck moderated the conversation with Alex J. Adams, assistant secretary for children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- **AEI Examines Science of Effective Teaching:** Last week, The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an additional discussion on "The Science and Craft of Effective Teaching." During which, educational psychologists Nidhi Sachdeva and Paul A. Kirschner discussed their book, *Becoming an Expert Teacher: Deliberate Practice for Effective Teaching*, with AEI's Robert Pondiscio.
- **NAFSCE Examines Lifelong Learning in the Age of AI:** On Thursday, the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) held a webinar on how educators and families can foster human connection and social-emotional development as AI plays a growing role in classrooms and homes.

5. New Publications

- **What Good Readers Know**
  American Enterprise Institute (September 2026)
  AEI argues in this report that Teachers should spend far more time teaching students about science, history, geography, literature, art, and music, and school systems should ensure that curriculum is cumulative, sequenced, and coherent.
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  As newly released scores on the global PISA exam show U.S. students trailing other advanced nations in mathematics, this report contends that federal and state

policymakers must act urgently to invest in math education and prepare students for economic competitiveness

- **PRN Guide to Recovery: Second Edition**
  Principal Recovery Network (September 2026)
  This document is a collection of personal best practices and practical advice from principals, assistant principals, and superintendents who led schools in recovery after a shooting.

6. In the News

- **Chairman Walberg Applauds House Passage of Legislation Strengthening Literacy**
  U.S. House Committee On Education And Workforce (September 11, 2026)
- **'Should Be Removed': Democratic Senators Ramp Up Calls To Impeach Education Secretary Linda McMahon**
  ABC News (September 16, 2026)
- **U.S. Education Secretary Joins Cleveland Browns For 'Stay In The Game!' Attendance Celebration**
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- **As White House Reviews New Education Tax Credit Rules, Questions Remain**
  The 74 Million (September 23, 2026)
- **YouTube CEO: We're Focused On Internal Safety Efforts, Following Meta Calls To Join Settlement**
  CNN (September 24, 2026)
- **U.S. Department of Education Approves Mississippi's Returning Education To The States Waiver**
  U.S. Department Of Education (September 24, 2026)

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

- **Reading the States: The Big Policy Decisions Shaping the Next Generation of Readers**: The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading will hold an event examining who is experiencing the parent trust gap, what is driving calls for vouchers, tax credit scholarships, opt-out programs and other funding mechanisms, and why it matters for how we support families today.
  Tuesday at 3pm ET
- **Advocacy in Your District – Reconnecting Youth Campaign**: The Forum for Youth Investment, The Corps Network, and YouthBuild Global will hold a virtual

training on the federal policy landscape for Opportunity Youth and district-level advocacy strategies to support education- and workforce-connected programs.
Wednesday at 3:30pm ET

- **Knowledge Alliance Congressional Briefing**: Knowledge Alliance will hold the third and final briefing in its congressional briefing series, "Strengthening the Education R&D Engine: State Perspectives on the Federal Role," bringing together state education leaders to discuss the federal role in education research and development.
Wednesday at 1pm ET
- **CEF Legislative Conference**: The Committee for Education Funding will hold its Legislative Conference, "A Fiscal Year in Review," featuring Jen Castagna, EdCounsel; Cerin Lindgrensavage, Protect Democracy; and Craig Lindwarm, APLU.
Wednesday at 1pm ET

8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
   - **Senate floor**
     - S.4668, Protect College Sports Act
     - Consideration of nominees
   - **House floor**: The House is in recess until after the mid-term elections.

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

10. **About BPAG**

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1. COSSBA Advocacy Actions

COSSBA URGES ED TO REVISE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ITS GRANT REGULATIONS

In a September 14 letter, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) urged the Department of Education to revise proposed changes to its grant regulations. COSSBA supports oversight and responsible use of federal funds but argues that districts need predictable funding to hire staff, sign contracts, budget across years, and maintain services for students. COSSBA's chief concern is a provision allowing the Department or a pass-through entity to terminate a grant "for convenience," even if a district is meeting its obligations. It asks the Department to remove that authority or limit termination to clearly defined grounds, with advance notice, written findings, an opportunity to address deficiencies, and reconsideration. The letter also objects to a proposed requirement that continuation funding for a multi-year grant be in the "best interest of the Federal Government." The letter states that this undefined standard, combined with broad discretion over funding amounts and timing, could leave compliant districts unable to plan. It recommends decisions based on published criteria such as performance, compliance, eligibility, and available appropriations, made on reasonable timelines. Finally, COSSBA is asking that any new standards apply only to future awards. Existing multi-year grants should retain the terms under

which districts made their commitments, and a change in administration priorities alone should not end an otherwise compliant grant.

2. COSSBA Policy Priorities

SCHOOL NUTRITION

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE ADVANCES FARM BILL

On September 16, the Senate Agriculture Committee advanced its version of the Farm Bill on a 12–11 party-line vote. The House Agriculture Committee previously approved its legislation, and the full House passed the measure in April. With both chambers having now developed legislative vehicles, House and Senate negotiators could begin informal conference discussions to reconcile differences and position a compromise for possible consideration during the lame-duck session. Enactment remains unlikely given the limited legislative calendar and partisan divisions, but lame-duck sessions have occasionally provided openings for large, must-pass packages. Nutrition policy remains a central component of the debate. The Senate bill would strengthen Buy American requirements across federal nutrition programs, expand the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program to cover all forms of fruits and vegetables, and broaden dairy incentives under SNAP. It would also require additional reporting on SNAP payment errors and permit contractors to perform certain administrative functions to help address state staffing shortages. For school meals, the proposal clarifies that whole milk may be served through the School Breakfast Program, building on Congress's earlier action allowing whole and 2% milk in school lunches. The House bill similarly emphasizes domestic food procurement, although school nutrition advocates have raised concerns that its stricter Buy American provisions could make certain foods—including bananas and other products not widely grown domestically—more difficult or costly for schools to obtain. Neither bill reverses the substantial SNAP changes enacted through the 2025 tax and spending law, leaving broader disputes over benefit access, state responsibilities, and program administration unresolved. Those differences could become significant bargaining points in any bicameral negotiations.

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3. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The Senate returned to Washington last week for one of its final stretches of legislative work before lawmakers leave town to campaign ahead of the November midterm elections while their House colleagues were out of session until November. For education advocates, the week featured movement on education legislation, the close of an important Education Department rulemaking, and a gathering of hundreds of advocates to make the case for continued federal investment in education.

On appropriations, Congress has already removed the most immediate threat of a government shutdown. Earlier this month, the House approved, by a vote of 370–48, the Senate-amended continuing resolution (CR) extending federal funding through December 11. The measure gives lawmakers until after the elections to negotiate FY 2027 appropriations bills and temporarily blocks implementation of the Office of Management and Budget's proposed changes to federal financial-assistance rules.

The calendar is now becoming as important as the policy. The Senate continued floor work on the Protect College Sports Act. Its published calendar calls for a state work period beginning October

5 and continuing through November 6, giving the chamber roughly another week to complete its pre-election business before members head home and to the campaign trail.

The education community also gathered Wednesday evening for one of Washington's longstanding education traditions: the Committee for Education Funding's (CEF) annual gala, often affectionately called the "EduProm." CEF, founded in 1969, represents more than 100 organizations spanning early childhood, K–12, higher education, career and adult education, libraries and other education sectors. Hundreds of representatives from education associations, institutions and advocacy organizations came together at the National Press Club to recognize congressional champions of education and celebrate their collective work supporting federal education investments.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

As for the Education Department rulemaking referenced earlier, comments were due September 23 on the agency's proposed revisions to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), the rules governing the Department's administration of federal grants. The proposal would make technical changes but also significant substantive revisions, including changes affecting publication of grant competitions and priorities, selection criteria, continuation of multiyear grants, indirect-cost considerations and the Department's authority over grant awards.

The docket has recorded approximately 865 public comments so far, including those from COSSBA. Many education, higher-education and research organizations urged the Department to withdraw or substantially revise the proposal, arguing that some provisions could give the Secretary greater discretion over continuation and termination of grants and reduce transparency in grantmaking. The Department has said it intends to finalize the regulations later this year.

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4. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RELEASES LEARNING AGENDA PLAYBOOK

On September 9, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) launched a Learning Agenda Playbook designed to help state education agencies identify priorities, evaluate evidence, and direct resources toward strategies that improve student outcomes. The Department described the initiative as part of the Trump Administration's broader effort to return greater authority over education to states and local communities. According to ED, rather than prescribing federal priorities, the Playbook provides a framework that states can adapt to their own students, schools, and policy environments. It defines a learning agenda as a strategic, multiyear plan through which a state education agency identifies its most pressing challenges, develops research questions, builds evidence to address those questions, and invests resources where they are likely to have the greatest impact. The Playbook consolidates four primary resources: a Facilitator's Guide offering step-by-step assistance to state teams; a Facilitator's Toolbox containing slides, exercises, and implementation worksheets; a template for developing state-specific learning agendas; and a Capacity Continuum that allows agencies to assess their existing capabilities and identify areas for improvement. The Department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and Institute of Education Sciences "developed, tested, and refined the resource" in partnership with the National Comprehensive Center and education agencies in Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin. Secretary Linda McMahon said the framework

would help state leaders assume expanded responsibility without having to develop their own processes from the ground up. According to the Department, the initiative is intended not to generate additional data, but to help states produce and use stronger evidence when making decisions affecting students and families.

SEMAFOR HOSTS FORUM ON YOUTH WELL-BEING WITH CONGRESS MEMBERS

On September 15, Semafor hosted a forum on youth well-being that opened with a discussion between Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Kevin Kiley (I-CA). Both raised concerns about AI's effects on student cognition, citing research on "cognitive shrinking" among young AI users. The lawmakers have introduced or plan to introduce legislation establishing guardrails for the use of AI in schools, although they expressed differing views on charter schools and private-school vouchers. (Rep. Bonamici is expected to introduce her much-anticipated "human-centered" AI proposal very soon.) The second panel featured National Education Association President Princess Moss and American Psychological Association CEO Dr. Kaha Diaz-Granados, who highlighted educator burnout and noted that 62% of educators take second jobs. Their organizations, together with the National Center for School Mental Health, are piloting a "Healthy Habits" framework in Vermont and Oklahoma to connect teachers with mental health referral systems. A subsequent conversation with Gen-Z for Change founder Sophia Ale and HopeLab's Dr. Jaspal Sandhu addressed the recent $17 billion Meta settlement involving approximately 47 states. Both cautioned that the settlement is insufficient relative to Meta's revenue to meaningfully alter the company's platform-design incentives. Ale argued that the funding should prioritize offline mental health infrastructure, including school psychologists and youth "third spaces." Former Rep. Carlos Curbelo, now with the Coalition to Empower Our Future, urged a comprehensive, bipartisan policy approach encompassing social media, affordability, and community investment. He cited polling showing that more than 80% of parents want all social media platforms to adopt safety standards similar to those included in the Meta settlement. A closing panel featuring Trevor Project CEO Jaymes Black, Headspace's Dr. John Cole, and Sandy Hook Promise co-founder Nicole Hockley examined AI-powered mental health chatbots. The panelists agreed that AI can expand access to care but should never replace human connection. Cole cited research showing that 60% of adolescents diagnosed with major depression receive no treatment and that 37% of Americans live in areas with shortages of mental health professionals.

ED ISSUES DEAR COLLEAGUE ON STRENGTHENING CIVIC EDUCATION

On September 16, the Department of Education issued a Dear Colleague Letter urging education leaders and teachers to strengthen civic education and provide students with routine opportunities to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Released in observance of Constitution Day on September 17 and following the nation's 250th anniversary, the letter cites declining civic literacy and national pride among young Americans. According to the Department, fewer than six in 10 Americans ages 18 to 29 report feeling "very proud" to be American, while national assessments show that only 22% of eighth-grade students are proficient in civics and 13% are proficient in U.S. history. McMahon argued that understanding the nation's history, ideals, responsibilities, and civic traditions is essential to preparing students for active citizenship and described the Pledge as a brief daily opportunity for students to connect with the country's history and future. The announcement also highlighted several Department initiatives intended to promote civic engagement, including the History Rocks! Tour, which is visiting schools across all 50 states; the Presidential 1776 Award for Civics, which challenges high school students to demonstrate their

knowledge of American history and government; and targeted grant competitions supporting instruction in American history, citizenship, government, and geography. The Department emphasized that the guidance creates no new federal requirements. Instead, it encourages state and local leaders to offer voluntary opportunities for daily recitation of the Pledge consistent with local policies and students' constitutional rights, including Supreme Court protections against compelled participation.

REAGAN INSTITUTE SUMMIT EXAMINES TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACT ON LEARNING

On September 17, the Reagan Institute hosted its annual summit on education, which featured a panel titled "The Reckoning: Technology's Promise and Peril in Learning," during which panelists assessed the implications of both comprehensive AI bans and unrestricted classroom use. Dr. Molly Hart of the Utah State Board of Education and Dr. Rebecca Winthrop of the Brookings Institution distinguished between narrow and broad AI applications. They cautioned that chatbots designed to replace peer relationships do not benefit students and stressed that students must first learn to recognize bias, hallucinations, and opinions in AI-generated content. Erika Donalds of the Education Freedom Foundation linked declining trust in public education to the case for expanding school choice. Following the panel, Colorado Governor Jared Polis (D) and former Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) participated in a fireside chat about making high school more relevant for students who do not plan to attend college. Polis noted that this approach has helped reduce dropout rates. Youngkin called for multiple learning pathways, greater flexibility for students, and the removal of cell phones from schools while maintaining high academic expectations. He also argued that AI should be introduced beginning in middle school, after students have mastered foundational math and reading skills through traditional instruction. Both governors agreed that education policy should remain a bipartisan priority. A second fireside chat brought together Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner and Senator Todd Young (R), who discussed AI's potential to expand access to tutoring in rural areas and reduce teachers' administrative workloads. They also cautioned that the technology must be managed carefully, given the speed at which it continues to evolve. Young concluded the conversation by arguing that American schools should be measured against their international competitors rather than against one another. Together, the sessions underscored a growing bipartisan consensus that AI's role in the classroom requires careful, deliberate integration rather than wholesale adoption or rejection.

ED EXPANDS WORKFORCE PELL AND APPROVES MISSISSIPPI, FLORIDA WAIVER

The Department of Education expanded Workforce Pell and EdFlex waivers last week in its effort to give states and students more flexibility in education and career preparation.in its effort to give states and students more flexibility in education and career preparation. On September 22, the Department approved six Workforce Pell Grant programs at two Texas community colleges, making Texas the fourth state with approved programs. Eligible students can now use Pell Grants for electrical power line work, phlebotomy, and pharmacy technician training at Kilgore College, and for HVAC, basic machining, and advanced machining at Weatherford College. Workforce Pell, which took effect July 1, extends grant eligibility to approved short-term programs aimed at in-demand jobs. The Texas approvals follow earlier approvals in Iowa, Indiana, and Nebraska. On September 24, the Department approved Mississippi's *Returning Education to the States* waiver, and today, the agency approved Florida's waiver. Mississippi and Florida join Iowa, Louisiana,

Indiana, Vermont, Arkansas, and South Dakota. The waivers allow the MS and FL to consolidate funds for state-level activities that would otherwise be administered separately.

HHS EXPLAINS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S HEAD START OVERHAUL

On Tuesday, the American Enterprise Institute hosted a discussion on the Trump administration's proposed overhaul of the Head Start program. Daniel Buck moderated the conversation with Alex J. Adams, assistant secretary for children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Adams said the proposal aims to reduce federal regulatory burdens, expand access, and give states and local Head Start providers more flexibility in how they operate their programs. He argued that regulations added since Head Start's 2007 reauthorization have increased costs without substantially improving measured program quality. He cited an HHS analysis showing a 29 percent decline in funded Head Start slots from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2025, while quality measures generally plateaued. Under the proposal, state and local systems would have greater authority over group size, staff-to-child ratios, education requirements, background checks, and transportation. Programs could retain existing practices that work for their communities. Adams emphasized the administration's focus on outcomes instead of uniform federal requirements, arguing that local leaders and parents are better positioned to identify community needs. The proposal would also reduce administrative requirements and cap administrative costs at 5 percent. HHS estimates that the broader reforms could save approximately $2.2 billion and make room for up to 236,000 additional Head Start slots. Adams also highlighted priorities related to nutrition, family-style meals, and physical activity as part of the administration's broader health agenda. The proposed rule remains open for public comment through October 6.

AEI EXAMINES SCIENCE OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted an additional discussion on "The Science and Craft of Effective Teaching." During which, educational psychologists Nidhi Sachdeva and Paul A. Kirschner discussed their book, *Becoming an Expert Teacher: Deliberate Practice for Effective Teaching*, with AEI's Robert Pondiscio. The authors argued that experience alone does not produce teaching expertise: teachers can plateau once their routines become established. Instead, they identified deliberate practice—setting specific goals, receiving feedback and coaching, reflecting on student outcomes, and refining instructional decisions—as the key to sustained improvement. They described expert teachers as having deep content knowledge, an understanding of how students learn, a broad range of instructional strategies, strong classroom management skills, and the ability to adapt when needed. The discussion also challenged schools to reconsider how they support teacher development. Rather than relying primarily on courses, workshops, and conferences, schools should create systems that help teachers identify, measure, practice, and improve specific aspects of their instruction. The authors emphasized the importance of this approach given research showing that differences in teacher effectiveness can have especially significant effects on students with the fewest educational advantages.

NAFSCE EXAMINES LIFELONG LEARNING IN THE AGE OF AI

On Thursday, the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) held a webinar on how educators and families can foster human connection and social-emotional development as AI plays a growing role in classrooms and homes. Participants included Dana Suskind, MD, founder and co-director of the TMW Center for Early Learning and Public

Health at the University of Chicago; Margaret Caspe, senior consultant for research and strategic initiatives at NAFSCE; and Carl Slater, senior manager of NAFSCE's Center for Family Math. Drawing on her book *Human Raised*, Suskind emphasized that warm, responsive interactions between adults and children build empathy, communication, self-regulation, critical thinking, creativity, moral judgment, and resilience—skills that will remain important as AI becomes more prevalent. The discussion focused on technology's effects on early childhood, emphasizing that children's experiences today shape the adults they become and that human connection remains irreplaceable. The webinar encouraged participants to assess AI technologies by asking whether they give adults more capacity to be present and engaged in children's learning and development or displace meaningful human interaction. Suskind argued that AI should support caregivers, not substitute for human care, and offered educators and families a practical way to evaluate its effects on children's development.

HUNT INSTITUTE EXAMINES REENTRY SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Also on Thursday, The Hunt Institute hosted a webinar examining how postsecondary education, workforce training, and reentry services can be better aligned to support individuals during and after incarceration. The discussion featured Utah State Representative Melissa Garff Ballard (R-20), Dr. Stanley Andrisse of Howard University College of Medicine, and Sarah Kuczynski of the New England Prison Education Collaborative, and was moderated by Maureen Hergenroether of Concordance. During the panel, Rep. Ballard highlighted Utah's efforts to better coordinate higher education and correctional systems, including the state's Higher Education and Corrections Council, which brings together policymakers, correctional officials, higher education institutions, and workforce stakeholders. She emphasized the importance of identifying barriers across agencies and expanding access to education and training pathways that provide individuals with viable employment options following release. Utah legislation championed by Ballard has sought to expand credential and workforce training opportunities for inmates and strengthen career advising for incarcerated students. Andrisse, a formerly incarcerated individual who is now a tenured professor at Howard University College of Medicine, stressed the role that mentorship and meaningful employment opportunities can play in successful reentry. He also pointed to continued federal activity surrounding Prison Education Programs (PEPs) and expanded Pell eligibility. Kuczynski emphasized the value of collaboration beyond individual institutions or states, pointing to regional efforts in New England to improve data sharing and credential alignment. Across the discussion, panelists emphasized that effective reentry strategies require sustained coordination among education, corrections, workforce agencies, and employers so that training offered during incarceration translates into recognizable credentials and meaningful employment opportunities after release.

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5. New Publications

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6. In the News

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U.S. House Committee On Education And Workforce (September 11, 2026)

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CNN (September 24, 2026)

U.S. Department of Education Approves Mississippi's Returning Education To The States Waiver
U.S. Department Of Education (September 24, 2026)

Higher Ed Groups Bash Ed Proposal To Allow More Grant Terminations
Inside Higher Ed (September 25, 2026)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

7. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Webinar: Reading the States: The Big Policy Decisions Shaping the Next Generation of Readers

Subject: The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading will hold an event examining who is experiencing the parent trust gap, what is driving calls for vouchers, tax credit scholarships, opt-out programs and other funding mechanisms, and why it matters for how we support families today.
Participants: Steven Guttentag, Ph.D., Board Member of The Siena School & Former CEO of EPS Learning; Tillie Elvrum, Elvrum Consulting & Parent Support for Online Learning; Mickey Revenaugh, Author, School's Out: Why Families Are Choosing Unconventional Education; Angela Watson, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University.
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Register **here.**

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Webinar: Advocacy in Your District — Reconnecting Youth Campaign

Subject: The Forum for Youth Investment, The Corps Network, and YouthBuild Global will hold a virtual training on the federal policy landscape for Opportunity Youth and district-level advocacy strategies to support education- and workforce-connected programs.
Participants: Lakeisha Arias De los Santos, policy and mobilization manager, YouthBuild Global; Meredith Hills, senior manager, policy and advocacy, Forum for Youth Investment; Danielle Owen, director of government relations, The Corps Network.
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Contact: Register **here.**

Briefing: Knowledge Alliance Congressional Briefing

Subject: Knowledge Alliance will hold the third and final briefing in its congressional briefing series, “Strengthening the Education R&D Engine: State Perspectives on the Federal Role,” bringing together state education leaders to discuss the federal role in education research and development.
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Contact: RSVP **here.**

Conference: CEF Legislative Conference

Subject: The Committee for Education Funding will hold its Legislative Conference, “A Fiscal Year in Review,” featuring Jen Castagna, EdCounsel; Cerin Lindgrensavage, Protect Democracy; and Craig Lindwarm, APLU.
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Register **here.**

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor

- **S.4668**, Protect College Sports Act
- Consideration of nominees.

House Floor

The House is in recess until after the mid-term elections.

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

U.S. House and Senate 2026 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.

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- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

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