The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

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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. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**
   - **Broadband Connectivity & E-Rate**
     - **FCC Proposes Changes to the E-Rate Program**: On August 14, the Federal Communications Commission issued a notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comments on potential changes to the E-Rate program.
   - **School Nutrition**
     - **USDA, HHS Announce Dual Initiatives to Overhaul School Nutrition:** On August 24, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced the Harvest to Hallways initiative. Two days later, on August 26, HHS separately announced a $32.5 million initiative called DEPEND—Developing Evidence for Programs to Ensure Nutrition for Development—to be led by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Institutes of Health.

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

3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**
   - **Fund IRL Releases Meta Lawsuit Settlement Framework for States**: Following the announcement of the Meta lawsuit settlement, FUND IRL, a national coalition led by the Children's Funding Project, released a framework

urging state and local leaders to direct proceeds from social media lawsuit settlements toward real-world alternatives to screen time and youth mental health initiatives rather than general budgetary needs.

- **ED Reminds Schools of Obligation to Comply with Parental Rights Laws:** On August 26, the U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) issued a Dear Colleague Letter reminding state and local educational agencies of their obligations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).
- **ED Proposes Changes to Federal Grant Programs:** On August 24, the Department of Education (ED) published a proposed rule revising the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), which govern the administration and oversight of federal education grants.
- **Groups Highlight Release of 2026 America After 3pm Report:** On Wednesday last week, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) hosted an event at its Washington, D.C., headquarters featuring a special report from America After 3PM and the Afterschool Alliance.
- **AZ, NV, SC Approved for Ed-Flex Authority, Bringing Total to 25:** The Department of Education announced on August 21, 2026, that Arizona, Nevada, and South Carolina had been approved for Ed-Flex authority, bringing the total number of participating states to 25—half of the states.
- **New Guidance Distinguishes Instructional Technology from Recreational Use:** On August 20, the Department of Education released new guidance on the responsible use of education technology, emphasizing that instructional technology should be evaluated based on its educational value and effect on student outcomes rather than solely on the amount of time students spend using devices.
- **House Education Panel Holds Hearing on Childcare Solutions:** On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce's Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing on state-led childcare solutions.
- **AEI Holds Discussion on Dismantling of Education Department:** Participants in an American Enterprise Institute event on Wednesday debated the practical effects of closing the Department of Education (ED), whether other Cabinet agencies possess the expertise to administer federal education programs, and whether widespread and continuing declines in academic achievement call for a coordinated national response

4. New Publications

- **Learning Corrupting Our Classrooms: How America's Teachers' Unions are Failing Our Students**
  U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (September 2026)
  U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) released a report claiming that the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) are promoting dangerous ideology instead of advancing our children's learning.
- **America After 3PM: Afterschool STEM Takes Off**
  The Afterschool Alliance (August 2026)

The special report delves into parent priorities and expectations for STEM learning in afterschool, STEM subjects and skills young people are accessing in afterschool, and where the gaps are.

- **The New Normal in K-12 Education (2026 Edition)**
  Third Way (August 2026)
  The New Normal (2026 Version) tackles today's debates around tech rollouts, digital divides, and culture wars, describing the complex landscape of issues new and old, while adding urgency to the issues.
- **Teachers Hold on to the Promise of Equal Opportunity Amid Disruption**
  Educators For Excellence (September 2026)
  Voices from the Classroom, Educators for Excellence's (E4E) national teacher survey of more than 2,000 public school teachers suggests that teachers do not want federal policymakers running their classrooms.

5. In the News

- **Supreme DOJ sues Kansas school district over transgender student guidelines and parental consent**
  NBC News (September 2, 2026)
- **NYC school system unveils aggressive restrictions on AI amid nationwide push**
  Politico (September 2, 2026)
- **LAUSD restricts all students from using AI tools**
  K-12 Dive (September 3, 2026)
- **3 things districts need to know about the $17B Meta social media settlement**
  K-12 Dive (September 1, 2026)
- **Trump's School Voucher Program Could Become a Public School Cash Machine**
  The Washington Post (August 25, 2026)

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

- **State Elections and K-12 Education**: The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar exploring how state-level election outcomes influence the direction of education policy, from investments in teacher pay and workforce pipelines to priorities in literacy, mathematics, and college and career readiness.
  Wednesday at 2pm ET

7. Weekly Calendar – Future Events

- **Investing in Educators and Families' Access to Care**: The Urban Institute will hold a webinar on "Investing in Educators, Improving Families' Access to Care: Evidence from DC's Early Educator Compensation Initiative."
  September 14
- **Reagan Institute Summit on Education**: The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute will hold its ninth annual Reagan Institute Summit on Education, "What is the Purpose of Education in America?," convening leaders from across the political spectrum to examine the purpose of American education amid rapid technological change and declining public confidence. Panels will include "Empowering Learners: School Choice at the Tipping Point" and "The

Reckoning: Technology's Promise and Peril in Learning." The summit continues through Thursday, September 17, 2026.
September 16

- **Rethinking "Kin-First" Foster Care Policy**: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold an event on "Rethinking 'Kin-First': Placing Children's Interests at the Center of Foster Care Policy."
September 16

8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**
   - *The House and Senate are in recess.*

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

10. **About BPAG**

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1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY & E-RATE

FCC PROPOSES CHANGES TO THE E-RATE PROGRAM

On August 14, the Federal Communications Commission issued a notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comments on potential changes to the E-Rate program. The notice seeks feedback on whether the program should be narrowed or terminated, limited to rural areas or locations with limited provider competition, made subject to new screen-time-related requirements, or maintained in its current form. Institutions eligible for E-Rate support include career centers and vocational schools, in addition to traditional K–12 schools. COSSBA is very engaged on this matter and working with several partners on comments, as well as likely submitting our own comments. We have developed a toolkit for Members to use and rely on as they consider and develop your own comment letters. Please reach out to Julie Feasel should you have any questions or concerns. One of our partners, AASA plans to submit comments urging the FCC to preserve the program's scope and has also developed an advocacy tool that calculates the amount of money distributed via the E-Rate program by district, as well as calls to action to submit comments to the FCC and call on Congress to support the program. Comments to the FCC are due October 13. Please keep an eye out on future announcements from COSSBA on this issue.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

USDA, HHS ANNOUNCE DUAL INITIATIVES TO OVERHAUL SCHOOL NUTRITION

On August 24, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced the Harvest to Hallways initiative. The initiative aims to connect schools with local farmers, upgrade cafeteria infrastructure, and give districts the tools to serve meals aligned with the 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines. Harvest to Hallways includes up to $70 million for cafeteria infrastructure and up to $25 million in additional Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants for fiscal year 2026. Specific components include $50 million for kitchen equipment, such as cold-storage equipment and stoves, building on $20 million in previously announced equipment assistance grants. The initiative also includes an outreach campaign promoting the "Local Option" procurement pathway, which allows schools to receive reimbursement for purchasing locally produced food. Two days later, on August 26, HHS separately announced a $32.5 million initiative called DEPEND—Developing Evidence for

Programs to Ensure Nutrition for Development—to be led by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Institutes of Health. DEPEND will fund schools and districts that test approaches to replacing processed foods with nutrient-dense alternatives across four areas: food purchasing and supply; workforce and food production; student demand and meal economics; and operations and infrastructure. Awards are expected to range from $75,000 to $2.5 million. Combined, the two initiatives represent more than $127 million in new federal investment in school nutrition. Kennedy said his goal is to develop "a practical, affordable playbook" that schools can use to serve healthier food, while Rollins said Harvest to Hallways will strengthen the connection between American agriculture and school cafeterias. Both efforts advance the administration's Make America Healthy Again agenda.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

Congress effectively took the threat of an October government shutdown off the table last week while postponing the difficult decisions over fiscal year (FY) 2027 spending until after the November midterm elections. The House, which was in session while the Senate remained on recess, voted 370-48 to approve the continuing resolution (CR) the Senate passed last month. President Trump subsequently signed the measure. The law funds most federal agencies and programs at approximately FY 2026 levels through December 11, 2026.

The early resolution of the September funding deadline reflects bipartisan interest in avoiding a shutdown immediately before the November elections. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) said the CR "simply holds funding steady at current levels through December 11th" while Republicans work to complete FY 2027 appropriations.

Democrats supported the compromise while emphasizing that it does not resolve the underlying spending disputes. House Appropriations Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) called the Senate measure a "marked improvement" over the House's earlier approach but stressed that it "is in no way a substitute for the full-year funding process." She urged Congress to complete all 12 appropriations bills before December 11. That will be difficult. Only three FY 2027 appropriations bills have passed the House, and none has passed the Senate. A partisan House Labor-HHS-Education bill has cleared the House Appropriations Committee but not the full House.

Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) has emphasized that regular appropriations remain her preference, saying she hopes lawmakers can now "return to the crucial work of passing bipartisan appropriations bills." Senate Appropriations Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) similarly said the CR provides the "runway we need to negotiate funding bills in the months ahead."

Of particular importance to education, research and other federal grantees, the CR prohibits OMB from finalizing or implementing its controversial proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance governing federal financial assistance through December 11. The proposal would significantly change how agencies award, administer and terminate grants, including by expanding political-appointee review of grant decisions and allowing greater consideration of presidential policy priorities. **COSSBA submitted comments in opposition to the proposed changes and is pleased to see this delay in the CR.**

The OMB proposed regulation reflects significant bipartisan concern. Collins has objected to provisions allowing discretionary grants to be terminated without an appeal and requiring senior

political appointees to review awards selected through merit-based processes. She warned that the proposal could "politicize grants and harm small, rural communities, families, and biomedical research." DeLauro has called the temporary prohibition "an important first step" but said more must be done to permanently block the policy.

Passage of the CR has also changed the congressional calendar. Speaker Johnson announced that the House will cancel two previously scheduled September work periods, allowing members to return home earlier to campaign now that the September 30 funding deadline has been eliminated. The House is expected to leave Washington after a short September session and return after the November elections.

The Senate returns September 14 and is scheduled to remain in session through October 2, followed by a recess lasting through the election. Congress will have only about a month after the election to resolve FY 2027 spending before the December 11 deadline. Possible outcomes include a large year-end appropriations package, passage of some individual bills combined with another CR for the remainder, or another government-wide CR extending funding into 2027.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

For school boards and districts, the CR provides stability. Department of Education programs will continue operating under approximately FY 2026 funding levels. But the CR does not settle FY 2027 education funding, and significant disagreements over domestic spending remain.

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

ED FUND IRL RELEASES META LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR STATES

Following the announcement of the Meta lawsuit settlement, FUND IRL, a national coalition led by the Children's Funding Project, released a framework urging state and local leaders to direct proceeds from social media lawsuit settlements toward real-world alternatives to screen time and youth mental health initiatives rather than general budgetary needs. The framework cites research showing that teens spend nearly five hours per day on social media and that this use can negatively affect their mental health. It notes that states, families, and school districts have sued social media companies over engagement-driven algorithms that allegedly come at the expense of young people's well-being. The coalition outlined four principles for allocating settlement funds: protecting youth mental health, investing across the full behavioral health continuum, using evidence and data to guide decisions, and establishing inclusive governance that gives young people and families a formal role. The framework also calls for ensuring access for underserved youth, who may be disproportionately affected by social media. FUND IRL proposes a three-part investment framework. The first component prioritizes "in real life" alternatives, including after-school and summer programs, youth sports, arts programming, and mentoring. The second focuses on safe digital engagement, including digital literacy and cyberbullying-prevention education for young people and caregivers. The third addresses mental health services, such as universal screenings, expanded peer-delivered models, and crisis-response infrastructure. The framework also recommends system-level investments in workforce training, evaluation, and cross-system

data coordination. The coalition emphasized that litigation proceeds should be treated as dedicated funding rather than absorbed into general budgets.

ED REMINDS SCHOOLS OF OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH PARENTAL RIGHTS LAWS

On August 26, the U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) issued a Dear Colleague Letter reminding state and local educational agencies of their obligations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The letter warned that noncompliance could result in the loss of federal funding. The letter was issued amid SPPO investigations into districts accused of maintaining separate, undisclosed records concerning students' gender identities; administering sexually explicit surveys after parents had opted out; and instructing educators to withhold gender-transition-related records from parents. SPPO has also investigated state education departments for allegedly pressuring districts to violate FERPA. SPPO Director Frank Miller said the Department is "committed to putting parents back in the driver's seat" and will fully enforce both laws. The letter states that, under PPRA, schools must obtain written parental consent before requiring students to complete surveys that disclose protected information, such as political beliefs, mental health information, sexual behavior or attitudes, or religious beliefs. According to the letter, an opt-out policy alone does not satisfy this consent requirement. It also raises concerns that schools are not adequately informing parents of their rights under FERPA and PPRA, including the right to inspect and request amendments to their children's education records. The guidance aligns with other enforcement actions taken by the current administration, including a finding earlier this year that the California Department of Education had violated FERPA in connection with confidential "gender support plans" that were withheld from parent-accessible files. In June 2026, the Department partnered with the Department of Justice to coordinate enforcement of parental rights and civil rights laws.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROPOSES CHANGES TO FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

On August 24, the Department of Education (ED) published a proposed rule revising the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), which govern the administration and oversight of federal education discretionary grants (does not apply to formula funded grants). The proposal, which would implement elements of the Office of Management and Budget's proposed changes to the government-wide Uniform Guidance, is open for public comment through September 23, 2026. Among other changes, the rule would revise the criteria and evidence standards used to evaluate competitive grant applications; allow ED to favor applicants willing to reduce or waive indirect-cost reimbursement; expand the Department's authority to suspend or terminate awards, including certain terminations "for convenience"; and give ED greater discretion over continuation funding for multiyear grants. It would also permit ED to announce certain priorities and competition requirements through individual grant notices, establish new expectations related to merit and high standards in grant-supported hiring and activities, strengthen evidence and evaluation requirements, and streamline existing administrative rules. These changes could create pressure to absorb indirect costs, increase uncertainty about continued funding for multiyear projects, and require stronger evaluation plans, performance measures, and evidence of measurable outcomes. Smaller nonprofits and community-based providers could be particularly disadvantaged compared with organizations that have substantial unrestricted resources and

sophisticated evaluation systems. Organizations may also need to monitor individual funding opportunities more closely if ED increasingly communicates priorities through grant notices.

GROUPS HIGHLIGHT RELEASE OF 2026 AMERICA AFTER 3PM SPECIAL REPORT

On Wednesday of last week, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) hosted an event at its Washington, D.C., headquarters featuring a special America After 3PM report from the Afterschool Alliance. Stephanie Rodriguez, director of the STEMM Opportunity Alliance at AAAS, welcomed attendees before turning the program over to Jodi Grant, executive director of the Afterschool Alliance, for an overview of the research findings. America After 3PM began in 2004 to examine what American children do after school, with the study conducted every five years. Among its findings, 77 percent of parents believe afterschool programs increase students' interest in STEM. The report also identified persistent gaps in access: An estimated 23 million children would like to attend an afterschool program, but cost remains a barrier. Although 97 percent of parents support summer STEM programs, only 11 percent of children from low-income families are enrolled in one. Parents ranked safety, workforce readiness, teamwork, and critical thinking among their highest priorities for afterschool programs and placed particular value on math and science instruction. The findings also highlighted a geographic divide: Urban families ranked STEM as a high priority, while rural families placed less emphasis on it. Notably, the data revealed an achievement gap in math but not in science, technology, or engineering. Following the presentation, a panel featuring the Afterschool Alliance's Anita Krishnamurthi and representatives from the Overdeck Family Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Newton's Thinkers recommended that afterschool programs invest in additional staff training and resources to improve program quality. Panelists expressed hope that better alignment between school-day instruction and afterschool programming could help close the gaps identified in the research.

AZ, NV, SC APPROVED FOR ED-FLEX AUTHORITY, BRINGING TOTAL TO 25

The Department of Education announced on August 21, 2026, that Arizona, Nevada, and South Carolina had been approved for Ed-Flex authority, bringing the total number of participating states to 25. Ed-Flex allows state educational agencies to waive certain federal statutory and regulatory requirements for districts and schools without first obtaining approval from the Department. The flexibility is intended to reduce federal administrative burdens and give state and local education leaders greater control over how federal education funds are used. As one example, the Department noted that districts in Ed-Flex states may have greater flexibility in spending Student Support and Academic Enrichment funds, including relief from existing spending caps. Department officials characterized the expansion as part of the Trump administration's broader effort to shift education decision-making away from the federal government and toward states, districts, and schools. Education officials in all three newly approved states welcomed the authority. Arizona Superintendent Tom Horne emphasized greater local control over education spending, while Nevada Superintendent Victor Wakefield said the flexibility would help streamline processes and focus resources on teaching and learning. South Carolina Superintendent Ellen Weaver similarly highlighted the opportunity to support districts and empower educators.

NEW GUIDANCE DISTINGUISHES INSTRUCTIONAL TECH FROM RECREATIONAL USE

On August 20, the Department of Education released new guidance on the responsible use of education technology, emphasizing that instructional technology should be evaluated based on its educational value and effect on student outcomes rather than solely on the amount of time students

spend using devices. The guidance distinguishes instructional technology from recreational uses, such as cellphones and algorithm-driven social media. The Department encourages states and school districts to establish separate policies for recreational and instructional technology, incorporate evidence of learning outcomes into procurement and renewal decisions, regularly evaluate technology after implementation, and provide professional development to help educators use these tools effectively. It also emphasizes considering whether technology expands educational opportunities for rural students, students with disabilities, and other populations that may rely on digital tools for access. Education technology providers are encouraged to publish independent evaluations when feasible, clearly disclose their products' capabilities and limitations, minimize unnecessary screen exposure, and use classroom evidence to improve their products. The Department identifies five questions that every education technology product should be able to answer: 1) What learning problem it solves, 2) When it should be used, 3) Who should use it, 4) How long it should be used, and 5) What evidence demonstrates that it improves student learning. The guidance further states that schools should be willing to discontinue using tools that fail to demonstrate meaningful benefits.

HOUSE EDUCATION PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON CHILDCARE SOLUTIONS

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education and Workforce's Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing on state-led child care solutions. Witnesses included Ryan Page, director of childcare at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services; Kate Shanks, senior vice president of public affairs at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Hannah Melnick, senior policy adviser and director of early learning policy at the Learning Policy Institute; and Jude White, assistant commissioner for child care and community services at the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Subcommittee Chairman Kevin Kiley (I-CA) argued that federal policy should give states the flexibility to develop comprehensive childcare solutions involving state investment, employers, and public-private partnerships. Witnesses noted that the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) serves only 10 percent of families who need care. Ranking Member Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) countered that state innovation cannot replace federal investment, citing an estimated $172 billion in annual lost earnings and productivity associated with inadequate access to childcare. Witnesses highlighted several state initiatives: Iowa's Child Care Connect platform provides families with real-time information about available spaces, while its Child Care Solutions Fund has helped communities expand capacity; Kentucky's tri-share program divides child care costs among employers, the state, and families, and the state has created a new licensing category for smaller "micro-centers"; and Tennessee's pre-licensure unit has helped create more than 44,000 child care spaces over the past five years. Melnick testified that Vermont and New Mexico had achieved universal childcare but noted that most states lack comparable funding mechanisms and require federal support. Members of both parties expressed support for reauthorizing CCDBG, which has not been updated in more than a decade. Kiley called on House leadership to prioritize reauthorization before the end of the congressional term.

AEI HOLDS DISCUSSION ON DISMANTLING OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Participants in an American Enterprise Institute event on Wednesday debated the practical effects of closing the Department of Education (ED), whether other Cabinet agencies possess the expertise to administer federal education programs, and whether widespread and continuing declines in academic achievement call for a coordinated national response. Lindsey Burke, Deputy Chief of

Staff for Policy & Programs at ED, argued that interagency agreements, such as those reached with the Department of Labor over the past year, demonstrate that programs can operate more efficiently within agencies that have more relevant expertise. She specifically pointed to the Treasury Department's digitization of the student loan rehabilitation process—which previously could require borrowers to print and fax paperwork to ED—as an example of how transferring responsibilities could improve services. Burke argued that major federal education laws and civil rights protections predate the Department and could continue to be administered by other agencies. Jim Blew, Cofounder of the Defense of Freedom Institute, also advocated for returning greater authority to states, local communities, and families. He suggested that Congress could eventually convert federal K–12 funding into block grants with fewer federal conditions, arguing that states have built substantial bureaucracies simply to comply with federal reporting and regulatory requirements. Opponents countered that redistributing more than 100 programs could fragment federal education policy and weaken specialized expertise, civil rights enforcement, and accountability. Roberto Rodriguez, a Visiting Fellow at Georgetown University, emphasized that millions of students and families rely on federal special education protections, Title I, Pell Grants, and other federal programs. President of the American Council on Education, Ted Mitchell, pointed to an earlier attempt to transfer roughly 500,000 student loans to the Treasury Department that ultimately failed because the agency lacked the expertise to service them effectively. The panel also debated the future of federal education data and research. Opponents argued that recent improvements to the FAFSA rollout demonstrate that federal education programs can be reformed without eliminating the Department altogether. Ultimately, the debate centered on whether dismantling ED would meaningfully reduce bureaucracy and return authority to the states—or instead create a more fragmented system with weaker oversight, research capacity, and federal support for students and families.

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4. New Publications

Corrupting Our Classrooms: How America's Teachers' Unions are Failing Our Students
U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (September 2026)

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) released a report claiming that the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) are promoting dangerous ideology instead of advancing our children's learning.

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5. **In the News**

DOJ sues Kansas school district over transgender student guidelines and parental consent
NBC News (September 2, 2026)

NYC school system unveils aggressive restrictions on AI amid nationwide push
Politico (September 2, 2026)

LAUSD restricts all students from using AI tools
K-12 Dive (September 3, 2026)

3 things districts need to know about the $17B Meta social media settlement
K-12 Dive (September 1, 2026)

Trump's School Voucher Program Could Become a Public School Cash Machine
The Washington Post (August 25, 2026)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. **Weekly Calendar**

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Webinar: Homeroom with Education Leaders — State Elections and K-12 Education
Subject: The Hunt Institute will hold a webinar exploring how state-level election outcomes influence the direction of education policy, from investments in teacher pay and workforce pipelines to priorities in literacy, mathematics, and college and career readiness.
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Register **here.**

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7. **Future Hearings and Events**

Monday, September 14, 2026

Webinar: Investing in Educators and Families' Access to Care
Subject: The Urban Institute will hold a webinar on "Investing in Educators, Improving Families' Access to Care: Evidence from DC's Early Educator Compensation Initiative."
Participants: Justin B. Doromal, senior research associate, Urban Institute; Erica Greenberg, senior fellow, Urban Institute; Kathryn Kigera, director of quality initiatives, Division of Early

Learning, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Heather Sandstrom, senior fellow, Urban Institute; and others.
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Register **here.**

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Summit: Reagan Institute Summit on Education
Subject: The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute will hold its ninth annual Reagan Institute Summit on Education, "What is the Purpose of Education in America?," convening leaders from across the political spectrum to examine the purpose of American education amid rapid technological change and declining public confidence. Panels will include "Empowering Learners: School Choice at the Tipping Point" and "The Reckoning: Technology's Promise and Peril in Learning." The summit continues through Thursday, September 17, 2026.
Participants: Usha Vance, second lady of the United States; Kirsten Baesler, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Gov. Jared Polis (D-CO); Sen. Todd Young (R-IN); and others.
Time: TBD
Contact: Register **here.**

Webinar: Rethinking "Kin-First" Foster Care Policy
Subject: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold an event on "Rethinking 'Kin-First': Placing Children's Interests at the Center of Foster Care Policy."
Participants: Sixto Cancel, CEO, Think of Us; Sarah Font, professor, Washington University in St. Louis; Emily Putnam-Hornstein, John A. Tate distinguished professor for children in need, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Krista Thomas, senior policy fellow, Chapin Hall; and Naomi Schaefer Riley, senior fellow, AEI.
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Contact: Register **here.**

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

The House and Senate are in recess.

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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.

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:

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- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

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