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## SCHOOL BOARDS

### Federal Newsletter on Education as shared by COSSBA – August 1, 2022

#### **Budget and Appropriations**

As of Friday afternoon, the House was looking forward to starting its August recess, although it had a long day ahead. The Senate was looking at another week of work before joining their House colleagues. Each chamber saw a lot of action last week.

In the Senate, Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) [released](#) all 12 annual spending bills without any markups or resolution of topline numbers. Of the release, he said, “These bills are an investment in the American people that promote affordable housing, help families put food on the table, support the education and care of our children and young people, combat climate change, improve health care access, and invest in our communities. It is my hope that by releasing these bills, and making clear what the priorities of Senate Democrats are, we can take a step closer toward reaching a bipartisan compromise after months of stalled negotiations. The stakes of inaction are too high to not complete our work. The burden of inflation would make a long-term continuing resolution untenable with grave consequences for communities and families across the country and for our national security. It is my goal to finish our work before the end of the 117th Congress to avoid these consequences. I look forward to continuing to work with my dear friend, Vice Chairman Shelby, and I encourage good faith, bipartisan negotiations on top lines to resume with the urgency that this moment requires.”

Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) voiced his displeasure with this approach to the process, saying, “Here we go again. Like last year, Senate Democrats have unveiled partisan appropriations bills that spend billions more than even the administration’s wasteful request. These drafts fail to appropriately allocate resources to our national defense, remove important legacy riders that enjoyed broad, bipartisan support just four months ago, and are filled with poison pills. They have even taken the drastic step of providing hundreds of millions of dollars for taxpayer-financed abortions.” The two responses don’t set the stage for bipartisan agreement on much as the process unfolds. As for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending proposal, the spending levels generally fell somewhere between the House’s generous plan and FY 2022 funding, as expected. Overall, the bill provides nearly \$49 billion, an increase of approximately \$5.5 billion or 13%, for federal K-12 education programs, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This includes \$20.137 billion, an increase of \$2.6 billion for Title I-A grants to school districts, which provide financial assistance to nearly 90% of school districts. It also includes \$15.3 billion, an increase of \$1.975 billion for

IDEA Part B State Grants, for services and supports for 7.4 million students with disabilities and to better meet promised federal support. The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center programs would see an \$85 million increase. The bill includes \$954 million, an increase of \$123 million, for the English Language Acquisition program. Finally, the bill includes several investments to support parent and family engagement in education, including \$45 million, an increase of \$15 million for Parent Information Centers under IDEA and \$25 million, an increase of \$10 million, for Statewide Family Engagement Centers. As for next steps, lawmakers aren't expected to resolve FY 2023 spending until at least after the mid-term elections. One or more continuing resolutions are expected to keep federal agencies operating through the fall.

In other activity, both the House and Senate [approved](#) the [CHIPS and Science Act](#), sending the measure to President Joe Biden for signature. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) reached surprising agreement on a reconciliation package that will address deficit reduction, healthcare subsidies, prescription drug prices and climate issues. The latter addresses issues in the semiconductor industry and invests in research and STEM education at the National Science Foundation and other research agencies. Bipartisan support for the measure dissipated after it was clear that a reconciliation package was going to be forced upon Republicans, and House Republican leadership encouraged their members to oppose the CHIPS bill. Ultimately, the bill passed with dozens of Republicans supporting it, but House Science, Space and Technology Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) was not among them. That was somewhat of a surprise, given how closely he and Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) worked on many of the bill's provisions.

Budget Chart: [FY 2023 Spending for Selected Federal Investments](#)

### **NEW AMERICA EXAMINES PAID WORK-BASED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS**

On Monday, July 25, the New America Center on Education and Labor held an event titled, "Designing Paid Work-Based Learning Opportunities for College Students." The event featured Iris Palmer, deputy director of New America; Dr. Mauriell Amechi, senior policy analyst for New America; Matthew Hora, associate professor and co-director of the Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Kathleen Sweeney, dean of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at Middlesex Community College; and Stefana Soitos, director of the Biotech Learn and Earn Program at Middlesex Community College. The event highlighted work-based learning (WBL) case studies from five community colleges and a lively panel discussion engaged practitioners leading WBL opportunities. Panelists covered where these programs are available, the steps involved in program development, and equity implications of WBL. Palmer kicked off the event with data highlights, underscoring that community college students need work opportunities that wholly support them. "Designing and offering programs that are accessible to these students is an important way of getting them reengaged in their education and then also helping them attain the credentials they seek," Palmer stated. Amechi drew attention to the 3.5 million college students that complete WBL opportunities, but noted that not all opportunities are created equal. "There is an opportunity for colleges, and specifically community colleges, to be more thoughtful in ensuring that all students have access to these opportunities, especially those who are less likely to participate," said Amechi. Ultimately, the panel demonstrated how WBL fields need greater transparency and clarity on program designs that expand and enhance workforce pathways, as well as systems in place that ensure program models are easily

transferable and support equitable outcomes for all students, especially learners from underserved communities. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

### **AEI REVIEWS NEW BOOK, DISCUSSES EQUITY IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

On Monday, July 25, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) held a discussion on Stephen Goldsmith's and Kate Markin Coleman's new book, *Growing Fairly: How to Build Opportunity and Equity in Workforce Development*. The event featured Brent Orrell, senior fellow for AEI; Stephen Goldsmith, book author and Derek Bok Professor of the Practice of Urban Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School; Stephen Moret, president and CEO of Strada Education Network; and Ben Wildavsky, visiting scholar for the University of Virginia School of Education and Human Development. Goldsmith described his book's exploration of how to achieve equitable workforce growth and suggested rethinking the workforce system so that government, nonprofits and private industry more effectively work together and construct an individual worker-centered approach that can adjust to meet the unique needs of individuals. Goldsmith also underscored 10 principles outlined in his book, which argue for a more comprehensive view of the skill needs of current and prospective workers. The 10 principles emphasize successful program qualities and argue for skill-based hiring, widely distributed performance data and collaboration. Goldsmith additionally highlighted the importance of local action to overcome structural barriers that challenge would-be learners and guided listeners on how to work across organizational boundaries in order to change the course of individuals struggling economically. The panel that followed Goldsmith focused on the importance of framing workforce equity around the individual and applauded Goldsmith for his book's high-quality coaching and guidance toward building positive mindsets. Panelists further examined workforce pipelines, constructing skills-as-currency systems, investment in college education, the role of credentials, regional intermediaries, and individual-centered approaches. An archived recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

### **ED PROPOSES COLLEGE PROTECTIONS FOR VETS, INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS**

On Tuesday, July 26, the Department of Education (ED) [released](#) proposed regulations that would implement critical changes in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that better protect veterans and service members from being subject to aggressive targeting practices by requiring private for-profit institutions to obtain at least 10% of revenue from nonfederal sources. The proposed rules would also strengthen the requirements for institutions undergoing changes in ownership, including with respect to for-profit institutions seeking to convert to nonprofit status. Finally, the proposed rules would clarify how incarcerated individuals can begin to access Pell Grants for qualifying prison education programs operated by public and nonprofit institutions. The changes proposed on Tuesday are a continuation of ED's efforts to protect students and taxpayers and building a stronger, more accessible higher education system. To view an unofficial copy of the proposed regulations, click [here](#), and to view a fact sheet with more information, click [here](#).

### **HOUSE ED AND LABOR COMMITTEE ADVANCES CHILD NUTRITION LEGISLATION**

On Wednesday, July 27, the House Education and Labor Committee advanced the [Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act](#) (H.R. 8450) with a vote of 27-19. This comprehensive reauthorization of federal child

nutrition programs includes vital provisions that expand access to school meals, preserve the future of school meal programs, modernize the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), address food insecurity during the summer, improve school meal capacity and sustainability, and strengthen the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The bill now advances for further consideration on the House floor. “The Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act takes long overdue steps to deliver on that goal by modernizing proven child nutrition programs and providing more children and families with access to nutrition assistance. This is a critical opportunity to help fulfill our basic responsibility to keep children from going hungry,” said Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA). For the fact sheet and section-by-section summary of the legislation, click [here](#) and [here](#).