



ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Federal Newsletter on Education as shared by COSSBA – August 8, 2022

SENATE PASSES INFLATION REDUCTION ACT, SENDS TO HOUSE

For weeks, those working for and watching Congress have had August 5 circled in red on their calendars, since it marked the day that the Senate joined the House for the August recess. Washington, DC's, collective sigh of relief will be delayed by at least a few days. The Senate worked through the weekend, since Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) [had reached agreement](#) on the details of the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The Senate passed the bill on Sunday, sending it to the House for consideration. By Friday, both chambers will be in recess until after Labor Day.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN SCHOOLS

On July 29, the Biden-Harris administration announced two new actions to strengthen school-based mental health services and address the youth mental health crisis. First, the administration plans to award the first of nearly \$300 million that Biden secured through the FY 2022 bipartisan omnibus agreement to expand access to mental health services in schools through the Mental Health Service Professional (MHSP) Demonstration Grant Program and the School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Services Grant Program. These funding avenues can be used to expand mental health supports through fostering trauma-informed services in schools, expanding mental health services through full-service community schools, and responding to childhood trauma associated with community violence. Second, the administration is encouraging governors to invest more in school-based mental health services through several items, including improving conditions for student learning and expanding access to out-of-school programs. These actions build upon earlier investments and [announcements](#) designed to expand access to mental health services for youth and further President Biden's [Unity Agenda](#). Read more [here](#).

NEW DATA HIGHLIGHTS AFTERSCHOOL IMPACT ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE

On Thursday, August 4, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona released a statement on the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) data showing student recovery throughout the 2021-22 school year. The NCES June 2022 data highlights an improvement in student performance and three-quarters of public schools offering summer learning and enrichment programs to help students catch up. "This data

shows that through the efforts of this administration, and with the strong partnership of school leaders, teachers, school staff, families, parents, and students across the country, students have made significant progress just over the course of the 2021-22 school year," said Secretary Cardona. He continued, "This data shows that school districts across the country are using American Rescue Plan funds to expand access to summer learning and enrichment programs, hire more school counselors, meet the mental health needs of students and educators, accelerate student learning, provide high-quality tutoring, and more." The Department of Education's press release can be viewed [here](#).

COSSBA TO HOLD WEBINAR, SYMPOSIUM FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is pleased to announce two upcoming events for school leaders.

On August 18 at noon, COSSBA will host an hour-long Federal Advocacy Webinar. Experts from Bose Public Affairs will present on the proposed Title IX regulations and their impact on education in the U.S. Registration is complimentary for members, but limited. Mark your calendar and watch the [COSSBA website](#) for registration details, coming soon.

COSSBA's in-person Urban Boards Alliance Symposium, "Best Practices for Students and Schools in Challenging Environments," will be held September 8-9 at the Omni Hotel at Centennial Park, Atlanta, GA. Just added, educator, author and Ithaca City School District Superintendent Dr. Luvelle Brown will be speaking at the event in addition to attorney and speaker Michael L. Thurmond, CEO of DeKalb County, GA, and former professional football player Dr. George E. Koonce Jr., senior vice president of university relations at Marian University. Register and access a detailed agenda with speakers and sessions on the [COSSBA website](#). Registration is limited to 300 participants – sign up now!