

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series
Closing the Gap: Improving Attendance for Our Youngest Learners
January 24, 2023 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

Moderator

Hedy Chang

Executive Director, Attendance Works



Hedy Nai-Lin Chang is the founder and Executive Director of Attendance Works, a national and state level initiative aimed at advancing student success by addressing chronic absence. A skilled presenter, facilitator, researcher and writer, she co-authored the seminal report, Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades, as well as numerous other articles about student attendance. Deeply committed to promoting two-generation solutions to achieving a more just and equitable society, Hedy has spent more than three decades working in the fields of family support, family economic success, education and child development. She served as a senior program officer at the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund and as co-director of California Tomorrow, a nonprofit committed to drawing strength from cultural, linguistic and racial diversity. In February 2013, Hedy was named by the White House as a Champion of Change for her commitment to furthering African American Education.

Presenter

Elliott Attisha, DO FAAP

Senior Fellow for Health, Attendance Works



A school health expert, Dr. Elliott Attisha has spent over a dozen years in both the medical and educational sectors ensuring that students are healthy to learn. Dr. Attisha is the former medical director of Henry Ford Health System's School-Based and Community Health Program's pediatric mobile clinic program and the former inaugural Chief Health Officer at Detroit Public Schools Community District.

Dr. Attisha recently joined Attendance Works as their Senior Fellow for Health. His special interests include asthma and chronic absenteeism. He currently serves on the boards of the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan and the Asthma Allergy Foundation of America (Michigan Chapter) and for six years, he served as an Executive Committee member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on School Health where he

co-authored a national American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement regarding attendance and health.

A Michigan native, Dr. Attisha completed his bachelor's degree at University of Michigan-Dearborn, his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California, and his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Dr. Attisha is married and has 2 daughters and a cat. In his spare time, he enjoys photography, wood working and running.

Presenter

Erica Forti

Superintendent, East Haven Public Schools
East Haven, Connecticut



Erica Forti has served as the Superintendent of Schools in East Haven, CT since 2017. In that capacity, she has dedicated her time and leadership to, among other committees, the CT State Department of Education Chronic Absenteeism Professional Learning Community, which seeks to reduce chronic absences in CT's schools. She's also worked extensively at all levels of her district to emphasize good attendance as a crucial factor in students' achievement. A member of the CT Center for School Change Superintendents Network and the Yale Teacher's Institute, and a Harvard Instructional Rounds Institute

Fellow, she serves as an adjunct professor at Southern Connecticut State University, where she teaches in the Masters' Educational Program.

Presenter

Elena Hill, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Dallas ISD
Dallas, Texas



Dr. Elena S. Hill serves as Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning in Dallas ISD where she works to create quality learning environments for children, build capacity in PreK-2nd grade teaching teams through high-quality coaching structures, build community stakeholder connections, and empower families to be their child's best, first teacher.

In her previous roles, she served as executive director of a group of schools for six years, an elementary principal for four years and two years as an assistant principal. She is a proud Dallas ISD graduate who began her career as a

Prekindergarten teacher. At the elementary level, Dr. Hill also taught kindergarten and elementary reading intervention to third through sixth graders.

She earned her bachelor's degree in child development from the University of North Texas, two master's degrees in elementary education and educational leadership from Texas A&M Commerce and University of North Texas respectively, and doctorate in educational leadership and policy from The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Hill has 28 years of service in education.

Presenter

Tracy Hill, M.Ed.

Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cleveland, Ohio



Tracy Hill, M.Ed., Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, is a member of the Institute of Educational Leadership's District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement. In 2014, she was recognized as one of 16 Leaders to Learn from by Education Week Magazine and participated in the White House Symposium on Transformative Family Engagement with Representatives from the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the W.K. Kellogg

Foundation to expand the conversation about family engagement as a major contributor to children's school readiness and success. Ms. Hill has presented nationally about family engagement as a key driver to school improvement. She has also been a contributing author on several publications on the positive effects of family/school partnerships on student achievement. Most recently she was a collaborating author for the publication of Education Forward - The Impact of COVID on Cleveland's Education Landscape.