



# COVID-19 & Learning Loss: What the Data Tell Us About Moving Forward

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

January 26, 2021 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

## *Panelist Bios*

### MODERATOR



**Denise Forte**  
**Senior Vice President for Partnership and Engagement**  
**The Education Trust**

Denise Forte is the senior vice president for Partnership and Engagement at The Education Trust where she brings strategic leadership to the organization's efforts to engage policymakers and diverse coalitions of advocates in demanding and securing equity-advancing policy change at the national and state levels. Denise spent 20 years in progressively senior congressional staff roles, most recently as the staff director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Denise also served in the Obama administration at the U.S. Department of Education, where she held the positions of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

### PRESENTERS



**Emma Dorn**  
**Global Education Practice Manager**  
**McKinsey & Company**

Emma Dorn is the Global Education Practice Manager at McKinsey & Company where she supports McKinsey's education work across early childhood, schools, vocational training and higher education. Emma has significant experience in global education, US K-12 schools, education technology, economic development, and global health sectors, as well as broader philanthropy, donor and nonprofit functional expertise. She also has expertise in applying advanced analytics for social impact.

Emma led McKinsey's response to COVID-19 for school systems. This involved working with UNESCO's Global Education Coalition to develop global toolkits for countries to plan and execute their education response to COVID-19 including remote learning, hybrid learning, reenrollment, remediation, and organizing the response. Emma also supported US states and school districts to understand and apply

best practices for reopening elementary and secondary (K-12) schools for in-person, hybrid and remote learning. Previous work includes advising global private sector education players on market landscape and mapping, and supporting higher education institutions to leverage advanced analytics to improve decision-making.

Emma writes frequently on education issues across school systems, higher education and workforce development, and speaks at global conferences and events. Recent knowledge contributions include:

- Economic impact of the COVID achievement and opportunity gap series: Analysis of the learning and economic impact of COVID-19 school closures, including widening inequities in the US education system (June 2020 article, Dec 2020 update)
- School system COVID-19 response series: Series of articles describing how school systems can respond to the pandemic, reopening schools safely, improving remote and hybrid learning, and reimagining a more equitable and resilient K12 education system.
- Higher education charticles series: Interactive data narratives exploring higher education trends, including shifts in enrollment, rising costs and stagnating completion rates, and the rising toll of student debt
- Impact of education technology on learning: Analysis of the 2018 OECD PISA data and the relationship between technology use and student outcomes.
- Education reform interview series: A series of interviews on how to implement education reform, with insights from Peru, Colombia, Norway, and the Netherlands
- Automation and Altruism: Exploration of how philanthropy can help people to navigate the future of work given the disruptions to labor markets caused by automation.
- How to improve student outcomes - New insights from data analytics: Analysis of the 2015 OECD PISA data to identify factors in student achievement including mindsets, teaching practices, and technology. Series of 5 regional reports and summary article

Outside of McKinsey Emma has taken a variety of positions in International Aid and Development organizations. She was Acting Executive Director of Millennium Promise, an organization set up by Jeffrey Sachs and Ray Chambers with the vision of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. She was responsible for the early implementation of the Millennium Villages Project, a community-based integrated development project in 10 countries across Africa. Emma has also worked as a stagiaire in the European Commission's Development Directorate (Health, HIV/AIDS and family planning unit); as a Business Development Advisor for TechnoServe Tanzania, and as an Advisor to the Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Emma holds an M.B.A with high distinction from Harvard Business School and a B.A. in Geography / Development studies from Cambridge University, UK.



**John Gomperts**  
**Former President and CEO**  
**America's Promise Alliance**

John Gomperts is a long-time leader in non-profits and government organizations devoted to civic engagement and to creating greater opportunity for children and youth. From 2012 - 2020, John served as President & CEO of America's Promise Alliance. Prior to that, John served as the Director of AmeriCorps in the Obama Administration. Earlier in his

career, John worked in the US Senate (Sens. Wofford, Kerry, Daschle), practiced law and served as a judicial clerk. John earned his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and his AB in History from University of California, Berkeley. John has served on a wide range of boards including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.



**Dr. Jennifer Sloan McCombs**  
**Senior Policy Researcher**  
**RAND Corporation**

Dr. Jennifer McCombs is a senior policy researcher and Director of the Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department at the RAND Corporation. Her research combines implementation and outcome data to provide practitioners and policymakers guidance on how to improve programs and promote positive outcomes. She has studied summer programming for the past decade, including leading a longitudinal study of the National Summer Learning Project and an evidence review of summer programs. She is a frequent advisor on summer and after school, and recently served as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Committee on Summertime Experiences.



**Beth Schueler**  
**Assistant Professor of Education & Public Policy**  
**University of Virginia**

Beth Schueler is an Assistant Professor of Education and Public Policy at the University of Virginia. She studies education policy, politics, and inequality with a focus on efforts to improve low-performing K-12 schools and districts. Her work in these areas has been published in journals such as Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Education Finance and Policy, and Public Opinion Quarterly, and covered by media outlets such as the New York Times, Boston Globe, and Education Week. Beth has a doctorate from Harvard University as well as a master’s degree from Columbia University, and previously worked on legislative affairs at the New York City Council.

## COMMENTATOR



**Aaron Dworkin**  
**CEO**  
**National Summer Learning Association**

Aaron joined the National Summer Learning Association as Chief Executive Officer on June 3, 2019 having most recently served as President of the After-School All-Stars National Network – a non-profit organization providing free afterschool and summer programs to 90,000 low-income students in more than 450 Title I schools in 20 major cities across the United States. Over the last 12 years, Aaron led the organization through tremendous growth, significantly increasing the number of students served, doubling the After-School All-Stars national

footprint and annual revenue, while opening a national office in Washington, D.C. to expand its advocacy efforts.

Aaron also oversaw the creation and implementation of the After-School All-Stars' four signature national initiatives, each with their own summer learning program, designed to combat childhood obesity (Sports as a Hook), promote high school and college graduation (We Are Ready), prepare students for careers (CEO: Career Exploration Opportunities) and inspire youth leadership and community service (Life Service Action).

Prior to After-School All-Stars, Aaron founded and directed Hoops & Leaders, an acclaimed summer youth leadership and mentoring program in New York City. He also helped support the creation of Up2Us Sports, a national coalition of sports-based youth development programs. Aaron is a frequent presenter at national education conferences, a graduate of Tufts University, a former Coro Fellow in Public Affairs and holds master's degrees from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and Harvard University Graduate School of Education. He is a member of the 2019 Class of Leadership Greater Washington and serves on the National Board of Directors of the American Camp Association.