



## Accelerating Equitable Learning Recovery Post-COVID: A Few Big Bets, Part II

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

June 8, 2021 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

### *Panelist Bios*

#### PRESENTER



**Jean-Claude Brizard**  
**President & CEO**  
**Digital Promise**  
**@DigitalPromise | @Brizardjc**

Jean-Claude Brizard is President and CEO of Digital Promise, a global, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused on accelerating innovation in education. He is former Senior Advisor and Deputy Director in US Programs at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where he focused on PK-16 education across five communities in four states. He also led several strategies to help close the racial and economic achievement gaps in Washington State's educational system as well as support the growth and sustainability of the state's public charter school sector.

He is the former Chief Executive of Chicago Public Schools. Prior to his appointment in Chicago, he was Superintendent of Schools for the Rochester, NY School District. Under Mr. Brizard's leadership, both the Chicago Public Schools and the Rochester City School District saw substantial improvements in student performance. Mr. Brizard's experience also includes a 21-year career as an educator and administrator with the NYC Department of Education. He served as a Regional Superintendent, supervising more than 100 schools in the Borough of Brooklyn and he also served as the system's Executive Director for its 400 secondary schools. He is a Fellow of the Broad Center, a Fellow of the Pahrara-Aspen Institute, and a member of the Aspen Institute Global Leadership Network.

#### INTERVIEWER



**John Gomperts**  
**Former President and CEO**  
**America's Promise Alliance**  
**@AmericasPromise | @johngomperts**

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 in including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.

## MODERATORS



**Eirene Chen**  
**Head of Communications**  
**Khan Academy**  
**@KhanAcademy**

Eirene Chen is Head of Communications at Khan Academy, and also serves as a School Board Member for a K-8 public school district in Northern California. Khan Academy's mission is to provide a free, world-class education for anyone anywhere. Khan Academy serves 20 million students each month, and partners with 200 school districts in the US.

## COMMENTATORS



**John Ferguson**  
**Manager, Digital Access for All**  
**The Patterson Foundation**  
**@TheRealJohnFerg**

John Ferguson joined The Patterson Foundation as a fellow in April 2020. His fellowship consists of collaborating within and/or managing multiple special projects across several different initiatives to provide strategic value and further innovation. His primary roles include serving as manager of the Digital Access for All initiative, and intimate involvement with Advancing Mission Thrivability and Patriot Plaza.

John received his degree from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the world's first school dedicated solely to the study and teaching of philanthropy. He was named Chancellor's Scholar for his graduating class and proudly serves on the Alumni Board for the school. Prior to joining TPF, he spent three years with Indiana United Ways in a variety of roles dedicated to supporting all local United Ways throughout Indiana. Previous to that, John was in hospitality for more than 18 years in a myriad of roles, including trainer and manager. He is passionate about helping people and organizations thrive.

John is a huge Chicago Cubs fan and avid concert-goer (in different times). He enjoys connecting with friends and family, fantasy football, and discovering new music in his free time.



**Vikki Katz, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor in the School of Communication & Information**  
**Rutgers University**  
**@vikki\_katz**

Vikki Katz is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers University. She conducts research with children growing up in low-income, working class, and immigrant families. She investigates how family technology use influences skills development and access to learning resources and how digital inequality affects learning opportunities for children. Her research has been supported by the Spencer, Grable, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations, and she is author of more than thirty articles, books, and reports. Dr. Katz also currently serves as Co-Editor of *Journal of Children and Media* and on the Board of Directors for the National Center for Families Learning.



**Victoria Saylor**  
**Manager of Family and Community Education**  
**Common Sense Media**  
**@VictoriaKSaylor**

Victoria Saylor is the Manager of Family and Community Education at Common Sense Media. With over 25 years of experience in the education sector as an elementary school teacher and university advisor, she brings a strong sense of student advocacy and best practices to her role at Common Sense Media. Prior to this role Victoria served as the Arizona Regional Manager for Common Sense Education and was an elementary school teacher. Victoria is committed to fostering a whole-community approach to digital well-being, by helping kids and families navigate their digital world with confidence. She works closely with school districts, early childhood providers and community organizations for consultations, professional development workshops, and parent presentations. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her family and hiking the beautiful deserts of Arizona.