

Learning How States, Districts, and Educators are Strengthening Kindergarten

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

January 17, 2023 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

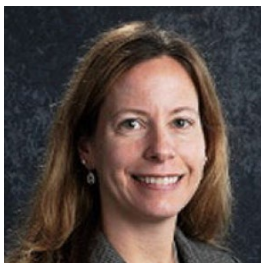
MODERATOR



Laura Bornfreund
Senior Fellow and Advisor on Early & Elementary Education
New America
@lbornfreund | @newamericaed | [LinkedIn](#)

Laura Bornfreund is a senior fellow and advisor on early and elementary education with the Education Policy program at New America. Laura focuses on transforming kindergarten and promoting policy and practice that will strengthen the transition into kindergarten and the early grades of elementary school. Laura was director of Early & Elementary Education Policy at New America for nearly seven years. Before joining New America, Laura worked with several policy organizations in Washington, DC, including the Institute for Educational Leadership, The Forum for Education and Democracy, and Common Core (now Great Minds). Previously, Laura worked for the City of Orlando, FL, helping to implement its Parramore Kidz Zone, an initiative modeled on the Harlem Children's Zone. She began her career as a fourth-grade teacher in Orlando. Laura lives with her husband and two daughters in Florida.

PRESENTERS



Kim Holland, Ed.S.
Director of Early Learning and School Readiness
Gwinnett County Public Schools
@BuildingBabiesBrains.Gwinnett | @B3_Gwinnett

Kim Holland joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1996 as a high school science teacher and then moved from the classroom into a technology support position at a preschool for special needs children, where she found her true passion - early learning. She went on to become the principal of the same school for 15 years. In 2015, she transitioned to the district office as the first Director of Early Learning and School Readiness to oversee the development of resources and programs to improve school readiness. In this newly created role, Ms. Holland was responsible for the development of the GCPS Kindergarten Readiness Entry Profile, Play 2 Learn program, Little Learners Academy, and was instrumental in the formation of a community initiative working to improve school readiness called Gwinnett Building Babies' Brain. She continues to work with the community and the team at the district to implement new and innovative programs to ensure that parents have the tools and resources to be their child's first and best teacher. She graduated from GCPS, attended UGA for her bachelor's and Master's in Science and then received her teaching certification and Ed.S. from North Georgia College and University. Outside of work, she enjoys all things outdoors, cooking and travelling with her wonderful husband of 28 years.



Stacy Macri
Kindergarten Teacher
Abbot-Downing School

Stacy Macri has been a Kindergarten Teacher at Abbot-Downing School in Concord, New Hampshire for over 35 years. In this role she has mentored new teachers and been a cooperating teacher for student teachers. She also was a Board of Trustee for the Friends Program and a Site Coordinator at Lesley University. Stacy has a BA in Sociology and Elementary Education from Regis College and a M.Ed. in Creative Arts in Learning from Lesley University. In 2022 Stacy explored play-based learning at the University of New Hampshire.



Geraldine "Jeri" Robinson
Chairwoman
Boston Public Schools Committee

Jeri Robinson, the current chair of the Boston School Committee, was first appointed on November 19, 2014 and elected Chairperson on June 16, 2021. Now retired, Jeri served as Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum. She brings more than 50 years of experience in teaching and consulting in the fields of early childhood, family engagement, multicultural and museum education. She is the developer of the PlaySpace exhibit (one of the earliest prototypes for early learning family spaces in children's and other museums) and co-founder of both Families First Parenting Programs and Boston's "Countdown to Kindergarten. Ms. Robinson is a proud graduate of Boston's Girls' Latin School, now Boston Latin Academy. She received her B.S, M.S, and honorary Doctorate in education from Wheelock College, (now part of Boston University) and serves on numerous boards dealing with family, community, multicultural and early childhood education issues.



Jason Sachs, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Early Childhood
Boston Public Schools
@BPSEarlyLearn

Dr. Jason Sachs joined Boston Public Schools (BPS) as Director of Early Childhood in 2005. Since the inception of the Early Childhood Department, Dr. Sachs has led an effort to deliver a universal high-quality system of early childhood programs in community based programs and in BPS including the successful implementation of the PreK-2nd grade curriculum, professional development system for teachers and principals, expansion of NAEYC accredited classrooms, and, strong research collaborations to demonstrate the effectiveness of PreK on student outcomes.

Previously, Dr. Sachs has worked in the Massachusetts Department of Education's Early Learning Services division for six years as a research and policy consultant and was a former board member of

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). He graduated from the Los Angeles Unified School District and received his Master's in Applied Child Development from Tufts University and obtained his doctorate from the Harvard School of Education. Dr. Sachs currently lives in Somerville with his wife Elif and co-owns Moe Fencing in Somerville, where they have successfully coached national university and high school champions.



Anna Severens
Early Childhood Education Consultant
Nevada Department of Education
@NevadaReady | #NevadaReady

Anna Severens has a Master's degree in Leadership and Policy in Early Care and Education from Wheelock College in Boston, MA and has over 25 years of experience in this field. She has served with the Nevada Department of Education for the last 15 years serving as the State PreK Administrator and Education Programs Professional. During this time she has served on the NevAEYC State Board, Nevada State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), Governor's Commission for National Service, been a member and served on the Executive Committee of the National Association for State Leaders in Early Education (NASLEE, formerly known as NAECS-SDE), was a CEELo (Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes) Fellow, and led several state teams with The National P-3 Center leading Nevada's B-3 (Birth-3rd Grade) efforts for the last 10 years. Her main work and passion include providing support and technical assistance to NV State PreK subgrantees and State PreK expansion and program management, Birth-3rd grade alignment (P-3/B-3), and Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) Kindergarten to name a few.



Pamela Truelove-Walker, Ed.D.
Senior Director
Early Learning and Early Education
Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
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Dr. Pamela Truelove-Walker is the Senior Director of Early Learning and Early Education in The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education. In this position she has oversight for systems alignment of all ADECE programs across the Birth through age 8 continuum, including state-funded pre-k and the pre-k through 3rd grade integrated approach to early learning (P-3). Dr. Truelove-Walker has over 20 years of demonstrated leadership in a variety of early care and education delivery models and is excited about the opportunity to work alongside others to ensure children and families receive high quality, comprehensive services, and educational experiences.