

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series
Seizing the Moment: Closing the Digital Equity Gap
May 3, 2022 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

PRESENTER

Amina Fazlullah

Senior Director Equity Policy, Common Sense



Amina Fazlullah is the Senior Director of Equity Policy in Common Sense's D.C. office where she works on a range of issues including privacy, expanding access to technology, and digital well-being. Prior to joining Common Sense, Amina was a tech policy fellow at Mozilla, where she worked to promote broadband connectivity in underserved communities around the world. Amina has also worked with the Benton Foundation, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, for the Honorable Chief Judge James M. Rosenbaum of the U.S. District Court of Minnesota, and at the FCC.

PRESENTER

Shawn Gross

Digital Equity Program Management Consultant , Baltimore City Public Schools



Mr. Gross serves as the Digital Equity Program Management Consultant with Baltimore City Public Schools. Since April of 2020, Mr. Gross has been responsible for ensuring all students with needs regarding connectivity are fulfilled. Over the past two years, Baltimore City Schools has distributed just under 20,000 hotspots, over 50,000 laptops and provided fixed broadband for 1,100 families. As the Digital Equity Consultant, Mr. Gross has coordinated the response for Baltimore City Schools regarding the Emergency Connectivity Fund and the Emergency Broadband Benefit (now ACP). Currently, Mr. Gross is assisting the district develop a coordinated digital equity training response with the Pratt Library System and the City of Baltimore.

Other roles that Mr. Gross has served in include the Director, Technology & Innovation at the University of San Diego's Mobile Technology Learning Center. As the Director, Mr. Gross was responsible for designing and developing district and school based flipped classroom and blended learning strategies. Mr. Gross has assisted some of the largest school systems in the design and develop Internet access strategies for unserved and underserved families.

Mr. Gross has made several contributions to the field of education technology, including:

- Member of the US Department of Education SARS Pandemic Taskforce for Continuity of

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- Contributing author to the National Education Technology Plan
- Advisor to the US Congressional Web Based Education Commission
- Advisory Board Member to the Consortium for School Networking's Leadership for Mobile Learning Initiative
- Advisory member to the International Society for Technology in Education's Special Interest Group on Mobile Learning
- Member of Arlington Career Technical Advisory Committee at Arlington County Public Schools
- Superintendents Technology Advisory Committee at Arlington County Public Schools
- Fairfax County Education Foundation Board Member

Mr. Gross has extensive public sector experience as a senate legislative aide and senior education policy advisor. His work in the private sector includes Sun Microsystems and Apple Computer, in product development and marketing, K-12 education practice, e-learning account management, and as government relations liaison on issues of education technology. Mr. Gross received his BA in International Studies from The Ohio State University; and both his MBA and Masters of Public Policy and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh.

PRESENTER

Ji Soo Song

Broadband Advisor, US Department of Education



At the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET), Ji Soo advises policies and leads initiatives to expand access to high-speed broadband, connected devices, and transformative learning opportunities empowered through technology. He also serves as the principal point of contact on interagency collaborations to advance digital equity, including the American Broadband Initiative. Additionally, Ji Soo provides subject matter expertise on digital equity to Department-led external capacity building efforts.

Prior to OET, Ji Soo was the senior policy advisor at ISTE, where he led the research, analysis, and communication of federal, state, and local policy issues related to digital learning standards, educator credentialing systems, and professional development funding streams. Ji Soo represented ISTE as a board member for the Title IV-A Coalition from 2020 to 2021.

Ji Soo holds a B.A. in biology and education from Dartmouth College and M.Ed. in education policy and leadership from American University. He is currently also a 2021 fellow with the Institute for Educational Leadership's Education Policy Fellowship Program. Finally, Ji Soo served as a City Year AmeriCorps Member in the District of Columbia, where he taught third-grade mathematics and robotics and received the 2018 WilmerHale Civic Innovation Award.

MODERATOR

Becky Miles-Polka

Senior Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



As founder and President of Within Reach Consulting Services, Becky Miles-Polka serves as a trusted advisor to non-profit leaders, funders, public and private sector leaders engaged in improving the well-being of communities and the people who live in them. She brings experience in community change, population health and maternal-child health.

Becky is a Senior Consultant to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading serving as the State Lead for Iowa and serves in a number of capacities to support the national campaign, currently as a member of the Learning and Engagement Opportunities Team and as a coach to other members of state and local campaigns.

She is a Senior Fellow with Attendance Works a national and state initiative that pushes for better policy and practice to improve school attendance. She is an inaugural member of the HealthConnect Policy Fellows with the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation.

Becky is a Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Midwife and Registered Yoga teacher.