

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

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

June 1, 2021

Moderator, Presenter and Commentator Bios

MODERATOR

John Gomperts

Former President & CEO, America's Promise Alliance
Senior Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



John Gomperts, Senior Fellow with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, 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.

CO-PRESENTERS

Peggy Brookins, NBCT

President & CEO, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards



Former NBPTS Board member Peggy Brookins, NBCT, joined the National Board as Executive Vice President in December 2014 and was named President & CEO in November 2015. Her long career as an educator includes many national leadership positions and accolades. In July 2014, President Barack Obama named Brookins as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. She came to the National Board from the Engineering and Manufacturing Institute of Technology at Forest High School in Ocala, Florida, which she co-founded in 1994 and where she served as director and as a mathematics instructor. She served on the NBPTS Board from 2007 to 2011. In addition, she has served on the board of, The Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences Ad Hoc Committee on Teachers as Professionals, the Content Technical Working Group for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, a commissioner on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), P21 Executive Board, and the SREB

Teacher Prep Commission. She has been a national trainer for AFT (Thinking Mathematics K-2, 3-6, 6-8 Common Core, collaborator and national trainer for Thinking Mathematics 6-8), and a member of the PARCC assessment Content Technical Working Group. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Digital Promise, NCEE Executive Board, Fund for Teachers Executive Board, Out Teach Executive, and the Executive Board of the Eddie and Jules Trump Foundation of Israel. Brookins achieved her certification in Adult and Young Adolescent Mathematics in 2003 and renewed in 2013. She was inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame in 2009, is a Florida Education Association “Everyday Hero,” and received the association’s Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2013, Brookins was named an Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar.

Jane Park

Director, *Too Small to Fail* at the Clinton Foundation



Jane Park is the Director of *Too Small to Fail*, the early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation, where she leads national partnerships with corporations, nonprofit organizations, and associations to promote children’s early brain and language development. Prior to her role with *Too Small to Fail*, Jane served as an early childhood education consultant, working with various nonprofits and media organizations to develop research-based programs and content for young children and families in

the U.S. and the U.K. Jane was previously the Associate Director of Content in the Education, Research, and Outreach department at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*. In that role, she helped develop the whole child curriculum on which the television series is based and integrate *Sesame Street’s* educational content across media platforms—including print, video, online, social media, and licensed products. Jane holds an MA in developmental psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University and a BA in communications from the University of California at San Diego.

COMMENTATORS

Kathleen Alessandro

Executive Director, *Everybody Ready*



Kathleen Alessandro serves as the Executive Director of *Everybody Ready*, a non-profit that supports the development and maintenance of an equitable, accessible early childhood system in Detroit and Wayne County, Michigan. She has managed several non-profits ranging from early care centers to workforce development organizations.

She has consulted and spoken nationally about work-life “balance” in an ever-changing economy, Kathleen served as subject matter expert for the NBC White Paper, *American Works*

When America Works, and presented at the G-7 Economic Conference. She also served

as President of the National Association of Women Business Owners of Greater Detroit. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Marygrove College in Detroit. While Kathleen does not share an early childhood educational background, she uses her 40+ years of non-profit management experience and contacts to bring the critical issues of early childhood in front of the business community, faith communities, K-12 learning communities, elected officials, and the general public. She often refers to early childhood as “the first step in workforce development” - to focus attention on the importance of equitable and accessible early childhood resources. She has extensive experience with fostering partnerships on the ground, creating literacy-rich environments in her community. She has managed partnerships with local laundromats, libraries, WIC offices, places of worship, early childhood education sites, colleges/universities, public housing, health providers, and other organizations and businesses to create early learning opportunities in everyday spaces. Her team focuses on connecting “life points” (families) with “touchpoints” (community locations). To this end, ER’s Great Start program has engaged over 3500 families through local partnerships and by transforming everyday spaces. The Great Start Team is also leading a foundation-funded demonstration program with early care scholarships for working families and also training providers and parents in best utilizing ASQ developmental screenings. Kathleen takes every personal and professional opportunity to elevate early literacy and early childhood system development to the forefront of public policy, community action, and family kitchen tables.

Scott Muri, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Ector County Independent School District



Dr. Muri joined Ector County ISD as Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2019. Prior to that, he spent four years as the Superintendent of Schools for Spring Branch Independent School District in Houston, TX. During that time achievement gaps narrowed in all academic areas while overall student achievement rose. He fostered innovation in the system by incorporating the redesign process to transform the student learning experience. Prior to taking over at Spring Branch ISD, Dr. Muri served as the Deputy Superintendent of Academics in

Fulton County Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, a large school district with 96,000 students and 100 campuses. Before joining FCS in Atlanta, Dr. Muri spent five years with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina. His roles included Area Superintendent, Zone Superintendent, and Chief Information Officer overseeing research and evaluation, along with technology infrastructure and instructional technology innovation. Dr. Muri’s educational experiences include serving as one of the first National Board Certified Teachers in the United States, high school principal, and administrator at Disney’s Celebration School in Celebration, FL.

Brian Wallace

President & CEO, Coin Laundry Association



A leader in the industry for more than 28 years, Coin Laundry Association’s President/CEO Brian Wallace is a popular presenter, author and advocate for laundromat owners in the U.S. and around

the world. He has led more than 750 educational seminars and penned numerous articles on all things related to laundromat management. Brian is also a passionate supporter of the LaundryCares Foundation and serves as its Executive Director. Among the LaundryCares Foundation programs are its series of Free Laundry & Literacy Days in under-resourced neighborhoods and its founding role in the Laundry Literacy Coalition – an initiative to promote early childhood literacy through America’s laundromats.

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.

State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education



Dr. Carey M. Wright became the State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi in 2013. Under her leadership, Mississippi has initiated education reforms that have increased literacy skills in pre-K through grade 3, pushed student achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress to improve at a faster rate than most other states, and increased the graduation rate to an all-time high of 87.7 percent.

Dr. Wright spearheaded initiatives that nearly doubled the Advancement Placement participation and success rate, resulted in significant annual gains in English Language Arts and Mathematics proficiency, and earned Mississippi recognition from the National Institute for Early Education Research as one of only four states that meet all 10 quality standards for early childhood education. Dr. Wright was appointed in 2019 by the U.S. Secretary of Education to the National Assessment Governing Board. She is a past president of the Board of Directors of the Council of Chief State School Officers, a Chiefs for Change board member and an alumnus of the Broad Academy. Dr. Wright also serves on the Reagan Institute Summit on Education steering committee and Stanford University’s Hoover Educational Success Initiative Practitioners Council.