

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

The Kindergarten Exodus: Why, Where and What We Can Do Now

September 28, 2021

Moderator, Presenter and Discussant Bios

MODERATOR

Laura Bornfreund

Director of Early & Elementary Education Policy, New America



Laura Bornfreund is the director of Early & Elementary Education policy with the Education Policy program at New America. She leads a team of writers and analysts working on ideas for improving children’s birth-through-third-grade learning experiences. Bornfreund has authored the reports *An Ocean of Unknowns: Using Student Achievement Data to Evaluate PreK–3rd Grade Teachers*, *Getting in Sync: Revamping Licensing and Preparation for Teachers in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and the Early*

Grades, and was lead author on the reports, *From Crawling to Walking: Ranking States on Birth–3rd Grade Policies that Support Strong Readers*, *Beyond Subprime Learning: Accelerating Progress in Early Education*, and *Support Early Learning in America: Policies for a New Decade*. Her work has been cited and included in national outlets and education publications including *The Atlantic*, *Chalkbeat*, *CNN*, *Education Week*, *Hechinger Report*, *NPR*, *Pacific Standard*, and *Slate*. Before joining New America, Bornfreund worked with several policy organizations in Washington, DC, including the *Institute for Educational Leadership*, *The Forum for Education and Democracy*, and *Common Core* (now known as *Great Minds*). Previously, Bornfreund worked for the *City of Orlando*, 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, FL*. Bornfreund holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in public administration from the *University of Central Florida*.

PANELISTS

Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District



Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell grew up attending schools in the *Oakland Unified School District* and has spent most of her 22-year career in the district. She currently serves as superintendent. Johnson-Trammell began her career as a teacher and teacher coach at *Parker Elementary School*. She next served as assistant principal at *Oak Grove Middle School* in the *Mount Diablo Unified School District* and spent two years in that position before returning to *Oakland* as principal of *Sequoia*

Elementary School. From there, she advanced to administrator on special assignment. In this capacity, Johnson-Trammell was responsible for coaching 40 school leaders. She later took on positions as associate superintendent of leadership, curriculum and

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instruction; lead network superintendent; and interim deputy superintendent. Johnson-Trammell has received a number of awards and honors, including Outstanding Principal of Alameda County by the Beta Mu Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization for women educators. She also earned the Outstanding District Leadership Award. She holds a bachelor's in communications from the University of Pennsylvania; a teaching credential from California State University, Hayward; and an administrative credential and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mike Kuhrt

Superintendent, Wichita Falls Independent School District



Michael S. Kuhrt is the superintendent of the Wichita Falls ISD in Wichita Falls, Texas. A superintendent since 2004, Mike has led three diverse Texas school districts. He has been instrumental in improving instructional practices, classroom technology environments and community perception to garner support for bond and tax referendums. In 2018, Mike was recognized as the Tech Savvy Superintendent of the Year by the Texas CTO Council. His staff routinely presents at early learning and technology conferences around the country and Wichita Falls ISD is

recognized as a Google Reference District. Mike is an Executive Committee member of the Texas Association of School Administrators serving as the Advocacy Chair and a member of AASA's Early Learning Cohort.

Cheryl Logan, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Omaha Public Schools



Dr. Cheryl Logan became Superintendent of Omaha Public Schools in 2018. Previously, Logan was Chief Academic Officer with the School District of Philadelphia, where she was responsible for the academic achievement of more than 135,000 students. Logan has spent her career in education working in school districts with large immigrant populations from around the world, including with students from significant English language learner populations. She has previously served in the

following roles: Assistant Superintendent – Philadelphia Public Schools; Elementary Principal – Prince George's Public Schools and Howard County Public Schools, Maryland; High School Principal – Prince George's Public Schools; Foreign Language Instructor – Prince George's Public Schools, Maryland; English for Speakers of Other Languages Instructor – Prince George's Public Schools, Maryland. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland, a Master of Education Degree from John Hopkins University and a Doctorate of Education Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to other forms of diversity among the communities in which she has served, Dr. Logan believes a superintendent must collaborate with students, teachers, parents, the Board of Education, the broader community and business and faith partners in service of children and families. Dr. Logan is also fluent in Spanish.

Alena E. Zachery-Ross, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Ypsilanti Community Schools



Dr. Zachary Ross is the Superintendent of Ypsilanti Community Schools and was previously the Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools during the 2017-18 academic year. Prior to that, she was the Superintendent of Schools for the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy, the first public charter school district in the United States, where she served in that role for 5 years. She is recognized as being responsible for turning around the entire district profile, including student discipline, student and staff attendance, dropout rate, and graduation rate. She previously worked in Van Dyke Public Schools in Warren, MI for nine years where she served as an Assistant Superintendent for curriculum and instruction, Elementary School Principal, Middle School Principal, School Psychologist and Teacher Consultant during her tenure there. Previous to working in the Van Dyke Public Schools district, Mrs. Ross was an Elementary School Teacher and School Psychologist for the Detroit Public Schools district. Dr. Zachery-Ross attended Grand Valley State University where she received a Bachelor's Degree with a major in Special Education/Psychology in 1995. She earned her Masters of Arts in Education Psychology from Wayne State University in 1999 and earned an ED.D in Administration Leadership.