

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

Back to School: Reducing Barriers to a Successful Start in Kindergarten

May 7, 2024

Moderator and Presenter Bios

MODERATOR

Chrisanne Gayl
Chief Strategy and Policy Officer
Trust for Learning



Chrisanne Gayl is an education leader with over twenty years of policy experience at the federal, state, and local levels. Serving as one of Trust for Learning’s co-directors and Chief Strategy and Policy Officer, Chrisanne uses her knowledge and experience to guide the organization’s grant-making efforts and lead its national policy strategy to accelerate access to ideal learning programs. Prior to joining the Trust, Chrisanne served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Education, where she was responsible for developing new policies and programs to expand high-quality learning opportunities for the nation’s children. She played a key role in the Obama Administration’s focus on universal preschool and supported efforts to strengthen social-emotional learning throughout the early grades.

PRESENTERS

Swati Adarkar
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Learning
U.S. Department of Education



Swati Adarkar is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Learning at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department, Swati most recently served as the National Policy Director for Start Early. Previously, Swati was the Co-Founder and President & CEO of the Children’s Institute in Oregon for 15 years, an early childhood policy and advocacy organization. Swati served on statewide advisory committees on early childhood for three Oregon governors. She provided the vision and leadership to launch and sustain the Early Works initiative which aligns birth to five services and supports with elementary school. For more than thirty years she has been a strong advocate for meeting the comprehensive needs of low-income children and families in Oregon and California and has a passion for ensuring the health and early school success of young children. Swati has served on the Advisory Boards of Attendance Works and the National P-3 Center.

Kathleen Holmes
Senior Public Health Analyst
Let's RISE Coordinator
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Kathleen Holmes is a senior public health analyst in the Chief Medical Office in the Immunization Services Division at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She coordinates Let's RISE, which is the Division's initiative to understand and address pandemic-related declines in routine vaccinations. Prior to joining the Immunization Services Division, Ms. Holmes spent a decade working in various global health positions at CDC including the Division of Global HIV/AIDS, Center for Global Health, and Division of Parasitic Disease and Malaria. She also served on the COVID-19 response for 18 months, where she helped support COVID-19 vaccine rollout strategy and vaccine confidence and demand partnership work. Ms. Holmes was a Presidential Management Fellow from 2009-2011.

Heidi Schumacher
General Pediatrician
American Academy of Pediatrics Council on School Health



Heidi Schumacher, MD FAAP is a general pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. In this role, she serves as faculty for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, a state-wide initiative that integrates public health, clinical quality improvement and health services research. Previously, she served as the Assistant Superintendent, Health & Wellness at the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, where she oversaw the health and nutrition portfolio of the District's educational system. She has also served as Deputy Chief of Student Wellness at DC Public Schools and Medical Officer at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. She is an active member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, including serving on the Executive Committee of the AAP's Council on School Health.

Jill Sells, MD, FAAP
Physician and Partnerships Lead, "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Program
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Dr. Jill Sells is the Physician and Partnerships Lead for the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Sells is a pediatrician with over 20 years of focused work in health and early childhood. She previously served as the Medical Advisor for the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety, part of the Training and Technical Assistance system for the national Head

Start program. She is a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and past chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Early Childhood. She was the founding Executive Director of Reach Out and Read in Washington State, a family-centered early childhood literacy program based in the medical home. She has extensive experience supporting policy and programs related to early childhood and health care, encouraging an integrated early childhood systems approach that meets families' needs within communities. Many of the initiatives she has worked on are part of collaborative school-readiness efforts.