

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

The ESSER Funding Cliff Approaches: What States Did and What They Learned

September 24, 2024 * Moderator and Panelist Bios

MODERATOR

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.

CEO and President, KnowledgeWorks



Dr. William R. Hite is the president and CEO of KnowledgeWorks. Prior to joining KnowledgeWorks Dr. Hite served as superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia, the largest public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Under his leadership, the district expanded innovative school models — redesigning schools in partnership with communities. Dr. Hite was named the 2020 Superintendent of the Year by the National School Foundation Association. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in education specializing in educational leadership from Virginia Tech.

PANELISTS

Susana Córdova, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education



In June 2023 Susana Córdova was named Colorado's 18th education commissioner and the first Latina to hold the state's top education position. Prior to being named commissioner, Córdova spent more than 30 years in education. She served as an assistant principal, principal, director, chief academic officer, chief schools officer, and deputy superintendent before becoming the superintendent of Denver Public Schools. She also served as deputy superintendent in Dallas ISD, the second largest district in Texas. Córdova's educational background includes a master's degree in curriculum and

instruction/education administration from the University of Colorado Denver, and she anticipates receiving a doctorate in education from Southern Methodist University in 2024.

Katie Jenner, Ed.D.

Secretary of Education, Indiana Department of Education



As the state's first Secretary of Education, Dr. Katie Jenner leads the Indiana Department of Education and chairs the State Board of Education with a learner-centered, future-focused vision. Under Dr. Jenner's leadership, Indiana is focused on three key pillars: student learning and opportunity; educator talent, quality, and value; and system-alignment and capacity. Indiana has deployed a number of tactical solutions within each of these three pillars. This work includes securing and implementing Indiana's largest-ever financial investment in literacy focused on the science of reading, launching a comprehensive teacher supply/demand marketplace that tracks vacancies, matches teachers with open positions, and helps recruit new teachers, as well as developing Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (Indiana GPS), a new performance dashboard which re-envisioning how the state strategically measures school performance and student learning. Dr. Jenner believes that by supporting students in finding their purpose, knowing their value, and understanding the possibilities for their life's path, our K-12 system can ensure all students emerge prepared for a dynamic future, whether they choose employment, enrollment, or enlistment leading to service.

Charlene Russell-Tucker

Commissioner of Education, Connecticut State Department of Education



Charlene M. Russell-Tucker was appointed by Governor Ned Lamont as Commissioner for the Connecticut State Department of Education in August 2021. Until her appointment, she served as Acting Commissioner from March through August. Prior to serving as Acting Commissioner, she served as the Department's Deputy Commissioner, a role in which she oversaw educational supports and wellness priorities. Previously, she served as Chief Operating Officer and Division Chief for the Department's Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness. She also served as Associate Commissioner of Education and Bureau Chief within the Department, previously overseeing a portfolio of programs and services that included student health, nutrition and safety, family engagement, magnet and charter schools, afterschool programs and services, school climate, adult education, and special education. She is a performance-driven and visionary education leader with over 20 years' experience in successfully leveraging the interconnectedness of the social, emotional, physical, and mental health of students and their families as foundations for positive school and life outcomes. She passionately supports family and community engagement in education and has successfully led school attendance and school discipline initiatives with intensive focus on equity and diversity.

McKenzie Snow

Director of the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Education



Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed McKenzie Snow to lead the Iowa Department of Education beginning June 26, 2023. Director Snow is committed to ensuring all children have access to a high-quality education that inspires them and prepares them for the future. As director, her work is grounded in high-quality teaching and learning, family and teacher empowerment, evidence-based innovation, college and career pathways, transparency and student-centered funding and supports. Director Snow began her work in the classroom teaching remedial courses at the University of the Free State in South Africa. She served as Virginia Deputy Secretary of Education over early childhood education through postsecondary pathways and as New Hampshire Division Director of Academics and Assessment, Special Education, Career Development, Adult Education, Wellness and Nutrition following her confirmation. She also served in the federal government as a special assistant to the President at the White House Domestic Policy Council, senior adviser at the Office of Management and Budget, and policy director at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to government service, Snow was policy director at the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Snow has been named a Fulbright grantee, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, and Bush Institute and Clinton Foundation Presidential Leadership Scholar. She is a proud fifth-generation Midwesterner.