

Decoding NAEP: Behind and Beyond the Headlines
GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

February 4, 2025 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

PRESENTERS



Kalyn Belsha
Senior National Reporter
Chalkbeat

Kalyn Belsha is a National Reporter for Chalkbeat based in Chicago. Previously, she covered education for The Chicago Reporter, Catalyst Chicago and the suburban Chicago Tribune. She is a former Spencer Fellow in Education Reporting at Columbia University and has taught journalism at Loyola University Chicago.



Kristen Huff, Ed.D.
Head of Measurement
Curriculum Associates

Kristen Huff, M.Ed., Ed.D., currently serves as the Head of Measurement at Curriculum Associates, where she works with a team of assessment designers, psychometricians, and researchers in the development of online assessments integrated with personalized learning and teacher-led instruction. Prior to this role, she served as the Senior Fellow for the New York State Education Department as well as serving in leadership roles with several major assessment companies. Dr. Huff has deep expertise in k-12 large scale assessment, has presented and published consistently in educational measurement conferences and publications for over 25 years. She served as the inaugural Co-Chair of the NCME Task Force on Classroom Assessment 2016-2020, is the recipient of the 2021 Career Achievement Award from the Association of Test Publishers, and is first author of the forthcoming Educational Measurement, 5th Edition (Oxford University Press), Designing and Developing Educational Assessments (Huff, Nichols, and Schneider).



Karyn Lewis, Ph.D.
Vice President of Research and Policy Partnerships
NWEA a Division of HMH

Dr. Karyn Lewis is Vice President of Research and Policy Partnerships at NWEA, where she leads a team dedicated to generating actionable, policy-relevant research that addresses critical challenges in K–12 education. Dr. Lewis also co-leads NWEA's research examining the impacts of COVID-19 on student growth and achievement. Prior to NWEA, she was a senior researcher at Education Northwest and a Data Fellow with the Strategic Data Project at Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research.



Kevin Mahnken
Senior Writer
The74

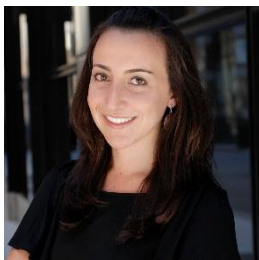
Kevin is a Senior Writer at The74. He has helped coordinate the publication of dozens of research studies, white papers, and book chapters at Washington D.C.'s Thomas B. Fordham Institute. He also wrote and edited articles for the institute's website. His coverage of education news and politics included pieces on testing, curriculum, and school discipline.

Before moving to education coverage, Kevin wrote about national politics and culture for The New Republic, where he served as a reporter and fact checker. His coverage there ranged from Obamacare implementation to the government shutdown to horrible advertisements for tequila. Prior to that, he interned at the National Endowment for the Humanities and the United States Senate. His freelance work has been published in the Atlantic, the Daily News, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.



Morgan Scott Polikoff, Ph.D.
Professor
University of Southern California Rossier School of Education

Morgan Polikoff is a professor of education at USC Rossier. Dr. Polikoff uses quantitative and mixed methods to study the design, implementation, and effects of curriculum, standards, assessment, and accountability policies. In 2021 he published *Beyond Standards: The Fragmentation of Education Governance and the Promise of Curriculum Reform*. His ongoing work focuses on the influence of curriculum materials on the implementation of standards in the classroom and the impact of COVID-19 on families' educational experiences. Dr. Polikoff received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education in 2010 with a focus on Education Policy.



Sara Randazzo
Education Reporter
The Wall Street Journal

Sara Randazzo covers K-12 education nationally, with a focus on technology shaping the classroom, how school districts spend money to improve education and parent advocacy. Before joining The Wall Street Journal in 2014, she reported for the American Lawyer in New York and the San Francisco Daily Journal. Based in Los Angeles, she is a graduate of UCLA and native Californian.



Munro Richardson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Read Charlotte

Munro Richardson is Executive Director of Read Charlotte, a community initiative that unites families, educators and community partners with the goal of improving third-grade reading proficiency in Mecklenburg County to 80% by 2025. In this role, he is responsible for using research, data and strategic funding to coordinate, integrate and align the efforts of dozens of organizations across Charlotte Mecklenburg to improve children’s language and literacy development from birth through third grade. Munro holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with Honors, master’s degrees from both Harvard University (where he was a Mellon Fellow) and Oxford University (where he was a Rhodes Scholar), and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He is co-author with Samantha Cleaver of *Read with Me: Engaging Your Young Child in Active Reading*.

MODERATOR



John Gomperts
Executive Fellow
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

John Gomperts 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.