

## GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

### *Education Savings Accounts: High Expectations and Continuing Concerns*

May 20, 2025

Moderator and Presenter Bios

#### **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, Gomperts 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.

Gomperts earned his JD from Georgetown University Law

Center and his AB in History from University of California, Berkeley. Gomperts has served on a wide range of boards including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.

#### **PRESENTERS**

##### **Derrell Bradford**

##### **President, 50CAN**



Derrell Bradford is the president of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now. He also leads the National Voices fellowship which focuses on education policy, media, and political collaboration. Derrell previously served as the executive director at New Jersey's Better Education for Kids.

Derrell frequently contributes to education debates in print, digital, radio, and TV media. He serves on several boards dedicated to putting the needs of students and families first, including Success Academy Charter Schools, yes. every kid., the

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, the advisory boards of the Alliance for Catholic Education at Notre Dame and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, the PIE Network, and was the founding board chair of EdBuild. A native of Baltimore, Derrell attended the St. Paul's School for Boys and received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Ben DeGrow**

#### **Senior Policy Director, Education Choice, ExcelinEd**



Ben DeGrow is the Senior Policy Director, Education Choice for ExcelinEd. Ben worked nearly two decades in state-based public policy, providing expert analysis in school choice, school finance and more. In his time at Colorado's Independence Institute and Michigan's Mackinac Center for Public Policy, he led dozens of studies and research project initiatives while also managing or supporting various coalitions to advance student opportunity through greater parental choice. Ben's classroom experiences

include service as a university graduate assistant, high school history teacher and a substitute in Michigan public schools. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Hillsdale College, a Master of Arts degree from Penn State University and a Certificate in Education Finance from Georgetown University.

### **Colleen Dippel**

#### **Founder and CEO, Families Empowered, Texas**



Colleen Dippel began her career as a public-school teacher. Colleen is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Families Empowered, a Texas based not for profit parent service organization. Families Empowered has provided K-12 school navigation services to over 105K low-income families in Texas. Colleen was a 2013 LEE Emerging Political Leadership Fellow and a 2017 Pahara-Aspen Fellowship recipient. She served on the Advisory Board of the Rice Educational Entrepreneurship Program at the Jones School of Business. She is a member of the

John Cooper School Booster Club Board and the Dyslexia School of Houston Board. Additionally, she serves on the Advisory Board of the Thrive with Autism Charter School. She and her daughter are active participants in The Woodlands TX chapter of the National Charity League. She considers being a mother to her two children her greatest accomplishment.

### **Mike Goldstein**

#### **Fellow, Pioneer Institute**



Mike is a fellow at the Pioneer Institute, where he recently completed a series of podcast interviews with homeschoolers and microschoolors. He also founded a Boston charter school called Match, led a network of elementary schools in Africa, and developed the concepts of high dosage tutoring in 2004. His work has been studied by economists at University of Chicago, MIT, and Harvard. Mike and his wife live outside Boston. He likes tennis with his teenage son, cooking with his teenage daughter, and "reverse fetch" with his 5 year old dog Grizzly.

**Luis A. Huerta, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Education and Public Policy**

**Chair, Education Policy and Social Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University**



Luis A. Huerta is a Professor of Education and Public Policy at Teachers College-Columbia University. He teaches courses in policy analysis and implementation, school finance and organizational sociology. His research and scholarship focus on school choice reforms and school finance policy. Prior to joining the Teachers College faculty in January of 2002, he served as a research associate and coordinator for K-12 education policy research for Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE). He also served as a California public school teacher for six years. He

is the author of recent articles on school choice and school finance published in *Educational Policy*, *Journal of Education Finance*, *Teachers College Record*, *Peabody Journal of Education*, *Journal of Education Policy* and *Phi Delta Kappan*. He is currently serving as co-editor of the journal, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.

**Beth Lewis**

**Co-Executive Director, Save Our Schools Arizona Network**



Beth Lewis is a mom, public education advocate, and K-12 policy expert who fights for a fully and equitably funded school for every Arizona child. As Director of Save Our Schools Arizona, Beth works to bring parents, educators, elected officials, business leaders, and community members together in support of Arizona's public schools, which strengthen our communities and our great state. Beth has taught elementary and middle school in Arizona for 12 years and has been named a Rodel Exemplary

teacher and Tempe Diablos Teacher of the Year Finalist. She holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's in Education from ASU.