

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
Beyond Decoding NAEP:
The Federal Role in Promoting Efficacy, Equity, & Accountability
September 2, 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

John B. King Jr., Ed.D.

Chancellor, State University of New York (SUNY)

U.S. Secretary of Education (2015-2017)



John B. King Jr. is the 15th Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY), the largest comprehensive system of public higher education in the United States. As Chancellor, King and the SUNY Board of Trustees have established four pillars to guide SUNY's progress: student success; research and scholarship; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and economic development and upward mobility. Under Chancellor King's leadership, SUNY has seen its largest operating aid increase in five decades, including double-digit percentage increases for every state-operated campus, the first operating aid increase for community colleges in nearly a decade, and dedicated recurring annual funding for expanding mental health services, services for students with disabilities, paid internships, and research, as well as addressing food insecurity. To advance SUNY's goal of an internship experience for every undergraduate and civic mission, Chancellor King has overseen the launch of the Chancellor's Summer Research Excellence Internship Fund, the NYS FAFSA Completion Corps, the Climate Corps Internship Program, the

Veterans' Enrollment and Support Internship Program, and the Empire State Service Corps (providing 500 SUNY undergraduates with the opportunity to engage in paid public service work for 300 hours over the course of a year). In fall of 2023, the System saw its first overall enrollment increase in a decade and hired approximately 700 faculty members across all disciplines at SUNY's State-operated campuses. Before being appointed SUNY Chancellor, King served as president of The Education Trust, a national civil rights nonprofit, and Professor of the Practice at the University of Maryland College Park. Prior to this, Chancellor King served in President Barack Obama's cabinet as the 10th U.S. Secretary of Education. Upon tapping him to lead the U.S. Department of Education, President Obama called Chancellor King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success," and his lifelong dedication to public education as a teacher, principal, and leader of schools and school systems.

Margaret Spellings
President and CEO, Bipartisan Policy Center
U.S. Secretary of Education (2005-2009)



A nationally recognized leader in public policy, Margaret Spellings serves as President and CEO of the Bipartisan Policy Center. Spellings most recently served as President and CEO of Texas 2036, a bipartisan think tank. Her extensive leadership experience in state and federal government includes service as U.S. Secretary of Education, White House Chief Domestic Policy Advisor, Senior Policy Advisor to then-Governor George W. Bush, President of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, and President of the 17-institution University of North Carolina System.

Adam Gamoran, Ph.D.
President, William T. Grant Foundation



Adam provides leadership for the William T. Grant Foundation's strategic direction, shapes its agenda and tactics, and partners with the Board of Trustees to advance its mission and objectives. Since joining the Foundation, he launched a new initiative to support research on reducing inequality in youth outcomes, and has continued the Foundation's ongoing work to improve the use of research evidence in policy and practice decisions that affect young people. From 1984 to 2013, Adam served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he held the John D. MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Educational Policy Studies. From 2001-2004, he chaired the Department of Sociology, and from 2004-2013 he directed the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. Adam's research focused on educational inequality and school reform. Recent publications include "Does racial isolation in school lead to long-term disadvantages? Labor-market consequences of high school racial composition" (American Journal of Sociology, 2016) and "Effects of school segregation and school resources in a changing policy context" (Educational Evaluation and Policy

Analysis, 2016). Earlier, he edited *Standards-based reform and the poverty gap: Lessons for No Child Left Behind* (Brookings Institution Press, 2007) and co-edited *Stratification in higher education: A comparative study* (Stanford University Press, 2007) and *Methodological advances in cross-national surveys of educational achievement* (National Academy Press, 2002). His research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, as well as by the Spencer and William T. Grant Foundations. Adam is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and National Academy of Education and was twice appointed by President Obama to serve on the National Board for Education Sciences. From 2014 to 2020, he chaired the Board on Science Education of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. In 2013, he received the Spencer Foundation Award for contributions to research on education policy from the Association for Public Policy and Management, and in 2014 he was honored with the award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education from the American Educational Research Association. Adam earned his Ph.D. in education from the University of Chicago in 1984.

Michael J. Petrilli

President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute



Michael J. Petrilli is president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, executive editor of *Education Next*, editor in chief of the *Education Gadfly Weekly*, host of the *Education Gadfly Show* podcast, and a contributor at Forbes.com. An award-winning writer, he is the author of *The Diverse Schools Dilemma*, editor of *Education for Upward Mobility*, and co-editor of *How to Educate an American* and *Follow the Science to School*. An expert on charter schools, school accountability, evidence-based practices, and trends in test scores and other student outcomes, Petrilli has published

opinion pieces in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, Bloomberg, and Slate, and appears frequently on television and radio. Petrilli helped to create the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and the Policy Innovators in Education Network, and serves on the board of the Association of American Educators Foundation. He lives with his family in Bethesda, Maryland.

Ruth N. Lopez Turley, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology

Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University



Professor López Turley directs the [Kinder Institute for Urban Research](#) at Rice University, which brings together data, research, engagement and action to improve lives. In 2011, she founded the [Houston Education Research Consortium \(HERC\)](#), a research-practice partnership between the Kinder Institute and 11 Houston area school districts, representing over 700,000 students. A program of the Kinder Institute, HERC works to improve educational equity by connecting

research to policy and practice, working directly with district leaders. She directed HERC from 2011 to 2022, during which she raised over \$30M so that school districts would not have to pay for research. She also founded the [National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships](#), which connects and supports over 60 partnerships between research institutions and education agencies throughout the country. In 2022, President Joe Biden appointed her to the National Board for Education Sciences, which advises and approves priorities for the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education. She is a graduate of Stanford and Harvard and is originally from Laredo, Texas.