

DECEMBER 16

3-4:30 PM ET

Reaching Their Full Potential,
Plugging the Leaky Pipeline for High-
Achieving, Low-Income (HALO) Students

Co-sponsored by

FORDHAM

BEST NC (Business for Educational Transformation in North Carolina)

Panelist:

Brenda Berg
President and CEO



Panelist:

Aaron Churchill
Ohio Research Director
Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Panelist:

Aaron Daffern
Director of Mathematics
Dallas Independent School District



Panelist:

Stéphane Lavertu, Ph.D.
Professor of Public Policy
John Glenn College of Public Affairs
The Ohio State University
Senior Research Fellow, Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Panelist:

Jonathan Plucker, Ph.D.
Research Professor
in Education Policy
Johns Hopkins University



Panelist:

David Taylor
Superintendent and CEO
Dayton Early College Academy

Moderator:

Michael J. Petrilli
President
Thomas B. Fordham Institute



Recent and Relevant Articles:

- [How young is too young for gifted testing?](#), Hechinger Report, November 13, 2025
- [The 2025 State of Advanced Course Access: Book 1: The Access Mismatch](#), Equal Opportunity Schools
- [How to see every student clearly in gifted education](#), Smart Brief, November 18, 2025
- [The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are on Target for College and Career Readiness before High School](#), ACT

Thomas B. Fordham Institute

- [The Leaky Pipeline: Assessing the college outcomes of Ohio's high-achieving low-income students](#), Stéphane Lavertu for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute
- [John Glenn College of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University](#)
- [Building a Wider, More Diverse Pipeline of Advanced Learners](#), Thomas B. Fordham Institute, June 2023
- [We're Losing Too Many High-Achieving Low-Income Students](#), Forbes by Michael J. Petrilli, November 17, 2025
- [Think Again: Are Education Programs for High Achievers Inherently Inequitable?](#), Thomas B. Fordham Institute, October 29, 2024
- [The Broken Pipeline: Advanced Education Policies at the Local Level](#), Thomas B. Fordham Institute, April 30, 2024
- [Building a Wider, More Diverse Pipeline of Advanced Learners](#), Thomas B. Fordham Institute, June 12, 2023
- [Education Next](#), Edited by Michael J. Petrilli
- [Education Gadfly Weekly](#)
- [SCHOOLED Substack](#)

Johns Hopkins University School of Education

- [Johns Hopkins University School of Education National Research Center on Advanced Education latest news](#) (scroll down to sign-up)
- [Should Millions of Students Take a Gap Year? Large Numbers of Students Start the School Year Above Grade Level](#), Gifted Child Quarterly, July 2017
- [Most Mathematics Classrooms Contain Wide-Ranging Achievement Levels](#), Gifted Child Quarterly, July 2023
- [Millions of students are \(still\) above grade level: Achievement and achievement variability in mathematics and reading before and during COVID-19 in the United States](#), Journal for the Education of the Gifted, 2024.
- [Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses: A Bipartisan Approach to Excellence and Equity in K-12 Schools](#)
- [Jonathan Plucker Substack](#)

BEST NC

- [BEST NC Access & Equity in Education](#)
- [Increasing Access to Advanced Math Coursework in North Carolina](#)
- [AN ACT TO EXPAND AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT IN ADVANCED COURSES IN K-12 SCHOOLS TO INCLUDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES](#), North Carolina legislation, 2025
- [Automatic Enrollment is Making a Difference for North Carolina Students](#), Collaborative for Student Success Video
- [Automatic Enrollment Policies for Advanced Coursework](#), EdTrust

Dallas Independent School District

- [DISD Mathematics Department](#)
- [Expanding Advanced Course Auto-Enrollment in Texas and Washington](#), Education Commission of the States
- [Middle School Advanced Math Programs Update](#), Texas Education Agency

Dayton Early College Academy

- [More on DECA](#)
- [Dayton ECA Results](#)