

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

The Science of Learning Loss and Opportunities for Recovery

June 2, 2020

Presenter & Commentator Bios

Co-Presenters

Dr. Jennifer McCombs

Director, Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department, RAND Corporation



Dr. Jennifer McCombs is a senior policy researcher with the RAND Corporation whose research focuses on evaluating the extent to which public policies and programs improve outcomes for at-risk children and youth. Her studies combine implementation and outcome data to provide practitioners and policymakers guidance on how to improve programs and promote positive outcomes. She has extensive experience in studying out-of-school time systems and programs. She is leading a longitudinal study of five urban districts' summer learning programs that included a randomized controlled trial, extensive implementation data collection and analyses, and formative guidance to districts and their community partners. Dr. McCombs also leads a developmental evaluation examining out-of-school-time intermediaries' use of a measurement framework, which will result in a revised framework and an accompanying best-practice guide. Dr. McCombs is a frequently advisor on summer and after school and has served on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on Summertime Experiences and Child and Adolescent Education, Health, and Safety; the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) Technical Work Group; the National Summer Learning Association Research Advisory Committee; and Horizon's National Research Advisory Group. Dr. McCombs is also the director of the Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department and is responsible for the hiring, professional growth, and support of over 200 professional researchers located in four major offices and in offsite locations.

Chris Minnich

Chief Executive Officer, NWEA



Chris Minnich is the Chief Executive Officer of NWEA, where he focuses on helping teachers use assessment data to ensure all students in the public education system – regardless of background – graduate prepared for college, careers, and life. His experience includes working with states to upgrade their standards and assessments, transform educator preparation programs, design new approaches to teaching and learning, and implement and sustain promising reforms across the country. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Washington, Seattle, as well as a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Fund for Portland Public Schools, as Co-Chair on the Oregon Business & Industry Education Committee, and is a member of the University of Oregon President's Diversity Committee.

Chris Smith

Executive Director, Boston After School & Beyond



Over the past two decades, Chris has created, scaled, and led cross-sector partnerships in education and workforce development. Under his leadership, Boston After School & Beyond has developed a nationally recognized model of summer learning that improves student outcomes, built a citywide program performance measurement system, and cultivated a network of more than 300 programs serving more than 20,000 students. Previously Chris worked at the Boston Private Industry Council, where he collaborated with business leaders to integrate work and learning in order to help thousands of students graduate, with universities on Boston's first-ever study of college graduation rates of Boston Public Schools students, and with legislative leaders to address the dropout rate in Massachusetts. Chris began his career at the US Department of Education in Washington, DC, where he coordinated partnerships for the Secretary of Education. A native of Worcester, MA, Chris earned a BA in American Studies from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and an MBA from Babson College in Wellesley, MA.

Community Commentator

David K. Moore, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Indian River County School District



Dr. Moore currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools in Indian River County. Prior to accepting his superintendency, Dr. Moore served as the Assistant Superintendent in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the fourth largest school district in the nation. Since January 2014, Dr. Moore has led the Division of Academic Support (DAS) which encompasses the Education Transformation Office (ETO), Student Services, and the Office of School Improvement (OSI). Dr. Moore has been instrumental in redesigning each area under his supervision and has significantly contributed to M-DCPS becoming one of the nation's highest performing urban school districts. Under Dr. Moore's leadership, the ETO has experienced a reduction in the percent of schools supported by the office that have been identified as performing below a "C" from 83 percent in 2015 to just one percent in 2019. For the past three years, Dr. Moore has contributed to M-DCPS having zero schools with a designated school grade of "F." Additionally, schools supported by the ETO have seen drastic improvements in students scoring proficient within all content areas. Prior to serving as the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Moore served as an Administrative Director of the ETO, principal, assistant principal, counselor, and teacher. Dr. Moore is an expert in school turnaround and is widely recognized for his expertise. He was appointed as the principal of a large failing high school and was instrumental in moving the school to an "A" status in the state's accountability system in two years. Dr. Moore was recently inducted into the Miami-Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame for his work in education; supporting underrepresented students and ensuring post-secondary success.