

## APPENDIX: PANELIST BIOS FROM NINE DECODING NAEP WEBINARS



JOHN GOMPERTS, a longtime leader in nonprofits and government organizations devoted to civic engagement and to creating greater opportunity for children and youth, serves as an executive fellow to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and moderated most of the webinars in this series. Gomperts served as president and CEO of America's Promise Alliance from 2012–2022 and as director of AmeriCorps in the Obama administration.



KARYN LEWIS, PH.D., serves as vice president of research and policy partnerships at NWEA, a Division of HMH, where she leads a team dedicated to generating actionable, policy-relevant research that addresses critical challenges in K–12 education.



KEVIN MAHNKEN is a senior writer for The74, a nonprofit news organization covering America's education system from early childhood through college and career.



MORGAN SCOTT POLIKOFF, PH.D., is a professor at the University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education where he uses quantitative and mixed methods to study the design, implementation, and effects of curriculum, standards, assessment, and accountability policies.



KALYN BELSHA was a senior national reporter at Chalkbeat, a nonprofit, education-focused news organization, at the time of the webinar.



KRISTEN HUFF, ED.D., serves as head of measurement, assessment, and research at Curriculum Associates where she supports the development of online assessments such as i-Ready, integrated with personalized learning and teacher-led instruction.



SARA RANDAZZO was an education reporter with The Wall Street Journal at the time of the webinar, covering K–12 education nationally, with a focus on technology shaping the classroom, how school districts spend money to improve education, and parent advocacy.

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FEBRUARY 4

### **Decoding NAEP: Behind and Beyond the Headlines**



MUNRO RICHARDSON, PH.D., serves as 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 North Carolina’s Mecklenburg County to 80%. In this role, he uses research, data, and strategic funding to coordinate, integrate, and align the efforts of dozens of organizations across the region to support children’s language and literacy development.



MARK SCHNEIDER, PH.D., served in the U.S. Department of Education as the director of the Institute of Education

Sciences from 2018–2024 and as commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics from 2005–2008. He is currently a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute where his work focuses on education research and development and higher education administration.



KATHARINE STEVENS, PH.D., is the founder and president of the Center on Child and Family Policy. Prior to

launching CCFP, she served for more than six years as a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), leading AEI’s early childhood program.

FEBRUARY 11

### **Decoding NAEP: Who’s Below “Basic” and Why?**



MELISSA CASTILLO, ED.D., served as a senior advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education under the Biden-Harris administration

where she provided expert advice, guidance, and support on major initiatives focused on academic and linguistic equity for diverse learners.

FEBRUARY 18

### **Decoding NAEP: Attendance Matters**



IAN ROWE is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute where he focuses on education, upward mobility, family

formation, and adoption. He is also co-founder of Vertex Partnership Academies, a virtues-based, International Baccalaureate high school in the Bronx.



HEDY CHANG is the founder and executive director of Attendance Works, a national and state-level initiative aimed at advancing

student success by addressing chronic absence.



KARI SULLIVAN CUSTER serves as the lead for attendance and engagement at the Connecticut State Department of Education

where she oversees the coordination of efforts across divisions within the Department and with other state agencies and community providers to address and remove non-academic barriers to student attendance, including those related to health, housing, and juvenile justice.



LEWIS FEREBEE, ED.D., has served as the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) since

2018. Under his leadership, DCPS has been one of the fastest improving urban districts in the nation, making significant gains on fourth grade math on the 2024 National Assessment for Educational Progress.



THOMAS KANE, PH.D., is the Walter H. Gale Professor of Economics at Harvard Graduate School of Education. In 2023,

Kane joined with Sean Reardon, Ed.D., at Stanford Graduate School of Education to launch the Education Recovery Scorecard, analyzing test scores from roughly 11,000 school districts across 45 states to measure the extent to which test scores changed in the wake of the pandemic.



LORI MASSEUR serves as early learning director at Read On Arizona, a statewide collaboration to advance the strategies, policies,

and investments needed for all children to learn to read at grade level and be successful in school. In this role, Masseur leads the organization's work around school readiness, early literacy, and systems-building.



ERNISE SINGLETON, PH.D., is the assistant superintendent of the Office of Career and College Readiness in

the Louisiana Department of Education.

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FEBRUARY 25

### **Decoding NAEP: Different Contexts, Different Results?**



RAYMOND C. HART, PH.D., serves as the executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools,

a network of 81 of the nation's largest urban public school systems focused on improving the education of children growing up in inner cities.



DREW JACOBS serves as senior director of policy, research, and evaluation at the National Alliance for Public Charter

Schools, the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement.



KATHLEEN PORTER-MAGEE serves as managing partner of the Leadership Roundtable, a nonprofit organization in service

to the Catholic Church. From 2014–2024, she was superintendent of Partnership Schools, a network of 11 Catholic elementary schools serving economically-challenged neighborhoods in New York City and Cleveland.



At the time of the webinar, MELISSA SADORF, ED.D., was serving as the executive director of the Arizona Rural Schools Association. In May 2025, she assumed the role of executive director of the National Rural Education Association where she is now focused on strengthening policy advocacy efforts, building leadership development pipelines, and amplifying innovative practices in rural education.



BETH SCHIAVINO-NARVAEZ, ED.D., serves as the director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) which operates 161 schools in nine districts located in 11 foreign countries, seven states, and two territories, educating more than 67,000 military connected children.

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MARCH 11

**Decoding NAEP: What Families Know and What We Can Do?**



ASHARA BAKER, MSL, serves as the New York State director for National Parents Union and the co-founder of the New York State Charter Parent Council, having spent more than a decade in education and family development and efforts to strengthen the state's education systems.



CHARLES BARONE, PH.D., is the senior director of the Center for Innovation at National Parents Union, a network of more than 1,800 affiliated parent organizations spanning all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico and representing more than 1.7 million parents and caregivers. Barone has been a central player in most major federal education reforms over the past 25 years, including President Obama's Race to the Top initiative and Every Student Succeeds Act and President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind.



JOHN JOHNSON serves as a parent leader with the National Parents Union Leadership Council on Assessment and Accountability and is a passionate parent advocate in addition to his professional role as a network engineer.



PASCALE SMALL serves as deputy director of impact and engagement with National Parents Union, a network of more than 1,800 affiliated parent organizations spanning all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico and representing more than 1.7 million parents and caregivers. In this role, Small works to expand opportunities for historically resilient communities by cultivating partnerships with mission-aligned organizations and people to increase collective impact and build the capacity of those closest to the issues.



TIARA THOMAS serves as a parent leader with the National Parents Union Leadership Council on Assessment and Accountability

and is an American Indian educator, activist, and leader who advocates for the rights and recognition of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and other Indigenous Nations.



KERI RODRIGUES is the founding president of National Parents Union, having co-founded this groundbreaking

network of more than 1,800 affiliated parent organizations spanning all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico and representing more than 1.7 million parents and caregivers from diverse backgrounds.

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MARCH 18

### **Decoding NAEP: The Perspectives of State Chiefs**



SUSANA CÓRDOVA, ED.D., was named Colorado's 18th Commissioner of Education in June 2023 and is the first Latina

to hold the state's top education position. Prior to this role, Córdova spent more than 30 years in education, including superintendent of Denver Public Schools, principal, chief academic officer, chief schools officer, and deputy superintendent.



AIMEE ROGSTAD GUIDERA was named Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia by Governor Glenn Youngkin

in December 2021 and now oversees education from Pre-K through Postsecondary. Prior to this role, Guidera had served as the president and CEO of the Data Quality Campaign, a national nonprofit advocacy organization leading the effort to ensure that students, parents, educators, and policymakers have the right information to guide their actions so that every student can succeed, and had also led a strategic consultancy focused on improving student learning and outcomes.



KATIE JENNER, ED.D., serves as the first Secretary of Education for the State of Indiana, leading the Indiana Department of Education

and chairing the State Board of Education with a learner-centered, future-focused vision. In this role, she has secured and is implementing the state's largest-ever financial investment in literacy focused on the science of reading and is developing Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (Indiana GPS), a performance dashboard that re-envision how the state strategically measures school performance and student learning.



ERIC MACKEY, ED.D., has been serving as the Alabama State Superintendent of Education since 2018 where he has implemented

the Alabama Literacy Act as well as several other innovative strategic initiatives. Prior to this role, he served as executive director of the School Superintendents of Alabama, having previously taught science in middle and high school.



CAREY M. WRIGHT, ED.D., was appointed Maryland State Superintendent of Schools by the Maryland State Board of Education in April 2024 having previously served as State Superintendent of Education in Mississippi where she is credited with elevating Mississippi to become a national leader in literacy instruction and outcomes during her nine-year term from 2013 to 2022. During her tenure, Mississippi’s ranking for NAEP fourth-grade reading rose from 50th to 21st in the nation with economically disadvantaged fourth graders achieving higher NAEP reading and math scores than their peers, across racial and ethnic lines.

APRIL 8

**Decoding NAEP: Frontline Educators Reflect on the Pace and Progress of Learning Recovery**



PEGGY BROOKINS, NBCT, has served as the president and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards since November 2015, leading this independent nonprofit organization in its efforts to strengthen standards in teaching and professionalize the teaching workforce.



ARTHUR EVERETT is a high school social studies teacher at the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology in Brooklyn, New York and has received the 2016–2017 U.S. Department of Education Classroom Teacher Ambassador Fellowship and the 2018 Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award. Everett is also a member of the national board of Educators for Excellence.



JOAN DABROWSKI serves as the chief academic officer for Baltimore City Public Schools in Maryland and has helped the district expand access to tutoring, extended day and summer learning programs, advanced academics, career and technical education programming, and professional learning.



DAVID K. MOORE, ED.D., has served as superintendent of schools for the School District of Indian River County in Florida since 2020, leading the district as it advanced in statewide rankings from 38 in 2018–2019 to 9 in 2023–2024. He was recognized as 2025 Florida Superintendent of the Year and National Superintendent of the Year Finalist.



EVAN STONE is the co-founder and CEO of Educators for Excellence (E4E), having launched the organization out of his classroom in 2010 and growing it to now represent nearly 40,000 teacher members across the country. E4E is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering teachers to advocate for policies that improve their profession and student outcomes.



ROBERTO J. RODRIGUEZ is a nationally recognized leader in education policy with more than 20 years of experience in government and nonprofit sectors. He most recently served as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the U.S. Department of Education under President Biden and previously served as CEO of Teach Plus, empowering teachers to drive policy change nationwide.

APRIL 22

### **Beyond the Ballot: Did Child Policy Predictions Hold True?**



JEAN-CLAUDE BRIZARD is the CEO of Digital Promise, a global, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused on

accelerating innovation in education, having previously served as Senior Advisor and Deputy Director in US Programs at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, and Superintendent of the Rochester City School District in New York.



DENISE FORTE is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a nationwide nonprofit committed to advancing policies and practices

to dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in the American education system. Her lifetime of public service includes 20 years in senior congressional staff roles, a stint in the U.S. Department of Education under the Obama administration, and leadership roles in various think tanks and nonprofits.



KEVIN HUFFMAN is the CEO of Accelerate, a national initiative launched in 2022 to embed high-impact tutoring and

personalized learning in public schools. Previously, Huffman served as Commissioner of Education for the state of Tennessee from 2011 to 2015, leading the state to the greatest gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress while in office.



ROBIN LAKE is director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education, a nonpartisan research and policy analysis

organization at Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University, where she leads the organization in researching and developing transformative, evidence-based solutions for K–12 public education.



MICHAEL J. PETRELLI is president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover

Institution, executive editor of Education Next, editor-in-chief of Education Gadfly Weekly, and host of the Education Gadfly Show podcast. An expert on charter schools, school accountability, evidence-based practices, and trends in test scores and other student outcomes, Petrilli helped to create the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement.

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SEPTEMBER 2

### **Beyond Decoding NAEP: The Federal Role in Promoting Efficacy, Equity & Accountability**



JOHN B. KING, JR., ED.D., is the 15th Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY), the largest comprehensive system

of public higher education in the United States. Before SUNY, 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. King also served in President Barack Obama's cabinet as the 10th U.S. Secretary of Education, 2015–2017.



MARGARET SPELLINGS is president and CEO of the Bipartisan Policy Center, having previously led Texas 2036, a bipartisan think tank. Spellings served in President George W. Bush's cabinet as the U.S. Secretary of Education, 2005–2009. Her extensive leadership experience in state and federal government also includes service as 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., is the president of the William T. Grant Foundation where he launched a new initiative to support research on reducing inequality in youth outcomes and has continued the Foundation's efforts to improve the use of research evidence in policy and practice decisions that affect young people. Gamoran previously held the John D. MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, conducting research focused on educational inequality and school reform.



MICHAEL J. PETRILLI is president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, executive editor of Education Next, editor in chief of the Education Gadfly, 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*. He is an expert on charter schools, school accountability, evidence-based practices, and trends in test scores.



RUTH N. LÓPEZ TURLEY, PH.D., 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, a research-practice partnership between the Kinder Institute and 11 Houston area school districts. From 2022–2025, she was a presidential appointee to the National Board for Education Sciences, which advises and approves priorities for the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education.



SARAH TORIAN is the Chief Learning Officer for the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, leading the organization's Learning and Engagement Opportunities (LEO) webinars. Since 2002, she has worked as an independent consultant for nonprofits and foundations, providing research, facilitation, communications, and project management services largely focused on children's early language and literacy development.