

Beyond Disruption: What’s Next for U.S. Education Policy

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

3–4:30 pm ET/12–1:30 pm PT

Panelist 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, John 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. John earned his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and his AB in History from University of California, Berkeley. John has served on a wide range of boards in

including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.



Jean-Claude Brizard

CEO

Digital Promise

Jean-Claude Brizard is President and CEO of Digital Promise Global. The Carnegie Corporation of New York honored Brizard as a “Great Immigrants, Great Americans”. He received the Aspen Institute 2024 John P. McNulty Prize.

Brizard was Senior Advisor and Deputy Director at the Gates Foundation and served as CEO of Chicago Public Schools. Prior to his appointment in Chicago, he was Superintendent of Rochester City Schools. Brizard’s experience also includes a 21-year career as a system leader with the NYC Department of Education. He is a Fellow of the Broad Center, a Fellow at the Aspen Institute Global Leadership Network.



Denise Forte
President
The Education Trust

Denise Forte (pronounced “fort”) is the president and CEO at EdTrust. Named one of the *Washingtonian’s* [500 Most Influential People](#) two years running, she is one of the country’s leading voices on education equity, Denise is a fierce advocate for employing evidence-based strategies to create high achieving learning environments that turn barriers and gaps into bridges and pipelines for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

Denise joined EdTrust in 2019 as senior vice president for Partnerships and Engagement, guiding the organization’s expansion by developing robust working relationships with legislators, education advocates, traditional and emerging civil rights groups, parents, students, and the business community. She was named president and CEO in January 2023.



Robin Lake
Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University

Robin Lake is the director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) a nonpartisan research and policy analysis organization at Mary Lou Fulton College for Teaching and Learning Innovation at Arizona State University. CRPE researches and develops transformative, evidence-based solutions for K–12 public education. Robin’s research and areas of expertise include the intersection of AI and education, school choice and charter schools, innovation and

scale, portfolio management, and effective state and local public oversight practices.



Michael J. Petrilli

President

Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Michael J. Petrilli 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 the Education Gadfly Weekly, and host of the Education Gadfly Show podcast. An award-winning writer, he is the author of *The Diverse Schools Dilemma*, and editor of *Education for Upward Mobility*. 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*, and *Wall Street Journal*. He lives with his family in Bethesda, Maryland.



Kimberly Stanislo DNP, APRN-CNP, LSN, NCSN, CPNP-PC
Chief Clinical Officer, National Association of School Nurses

Dr. Kimberly Stanislo has been a nurse for 25+ years. Prior to transitioning into school nursing, she worked in pediatrics as an RN and a nurse practitioner. She has practiced school nursing since 2004 in various capacities from building nurse, school nurse administrator, and school nurse educator. Currently, she serves as the Chief Clinical Officer for the National Association of School Nurses. In this role, she provides strategic leadership for NASN's integration of research, education, and practice into school nursing practice. Dr. Stanislo is the PI on NASN's evidence-based School-based Active Surveillance (SBAS) project related to chronic absenteeism.