

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
***Beating the Odds: Community Bright Spots Where Smart Implementation
Drives Student Success***

February 17, 2026
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

Lindsey Blevins

Extended Learning, 21st Century Program Director, Tuscaloosa City Schools, Alabama



Lindsey Blevins is the Extended Learning Coach for Tuscaloosa City Schools, where she leads districtwide 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool and summer programs. With a background in school counseling and more than a decade of 21st CCLC site-level leadership, she is passionate about building out-of-school-time systems that are intentionally connected to the school day and grounded in student needs. Her work centers on creating learning environments where academic growth, relationships, and joy coexist—because student

achievement doesn't happen in isolation. Lindsey is a statewide and national advocate for expanded learning and serves in leadership roles with the Alabama Community Education Association, the Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance, and as a 2026 Afterschool Alliance Ambassador.

Ximena Franco-Jenkins, Ph.D.

Co-Director, National Implementation Research Network



Ximena Franco-Jenkins, PhD, is a senior research scientist at the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG), co-director of FPG's National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), and the early childhood portfolio lead at NIRN. She has more than 20 years of experience in applied research, primarily with ethnically diverse children and families, dual language learners, and multilingual learners within school and community settings. Her work integrates children's socio-emotional development and educational and family environments and aims to develop culturally robust assessments and support the implementation of evidence-based practices. Franco-Jenkins's work also involves policies and practices related to state quality rating and improvement systems for early childhood. She served as PI on the North Carolina Statewide Birth-5 Needs Assessment project and co-PI on evaluating North Carolina's Quality Rating Improvement System. Franco-Jenkins currently serves as a Governing Council Member-at-Large (now through 2031) of the Society for Research in Child Development.

Raymond C. Hart, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Council of the Great City Schools



Dr. Raymond Hart is the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools. Hart, who has more than 30 years of experience in research and evaluation, was previously the Director of Research for the Council, and his work has spanned policy areas such as post- secondary success and college readiness, professional learning communities and school improvement, teacher effectiveness and value-added analysis, early childhood education, and adult and workforce literacy. He has worked with clients from a number of federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of State, the National Science Foundation, and many state and local departments of education. Hart recently led the Analytic Technical Support Task for the Regional Educational Laboratory – Mid Atlantic. He served as the Executive Director of Research, Planning and Accountability for Atlanta Public Schools, President and CEO of RS Hart and Partners, which is an evaluation and assessment consulting firm, and an Assistant Professor of Research, Measurement, and Statistics at Georgia State University. Prior to his work as a consultant, Hart served as the Director of the Bureau of Research Training and Services at Kent State University. His career began in 1989 as a program director for African American, Hispanic, and Native American students in Engineering and Science. Hart holds a Ph.D. in Statistics, Evaluation, and Measurement from Kent State University, a M.Ed. with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction – Educational Research from Cleveland State University, and a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Matthew Hornbeck

Principal, Hampstead Hill Academy, Baltimore, Maryland



Matt Hornbeck has served nearly two decades as the principal at Hampstead Hill Academy, (HHA) among the highest performing elementary/middle schools in Baltimore City. HHA is a diverse, neighborhood, conversion charter serving 920 PreK-8 grade students. Principal Hornbeck helped design Fair Student Funding and was a member of the collective bargaining team that negotiated a performance-based teacher’s contract. He has worked as a consultant to urban districts on resource allocation and professional development, a senior associate on Capitol Hill with a project to improve high poverty schools, an elementary school teacher, a program assistant at The Children’s Defense Fund, and an undergraduate admissions officer. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College, a Master’s in Educational Administration from Temple University, and a law degree from the University of Maryland. Mr. Hornbeck is a graduate of City Schools, as are his children. He is interested in correcting the systemic undercounting of low-income immigrant students, moving students from learning to read to reading to learn, increasing daily science and math minutes in the schedule, robust arts programming, and using restorative practices to develop the emotional intelligence of students and staff. Mr. Hornbeck lives in Baltimore.

Alicia Sanborn

Director, Early Literacy and Assessment, Washington Unified School District, California



Alicia Sanborn is the Director of Early Literacy and Assessment for Washington Unified School District in Fresno, California. She is responsible for overseeing the entire Early Literacy system from Preschool-2nd Grade through her work alongside teachers, guidance of leadership and outside partnerships in an effort to support the district’s vision for all students learning to read and write by 3rd grade. She also supports the implementation of tutoring programs in her district to address foundational skills in early literacy, foundational number sense and reasoning in Mathematics as a component of their Tier 2 and 3 Intervention System model.