



**The Alliance for Excellent Education and MDRC
Present a Briefing**

Transforming the High School Experience: Lessons from the New York Small Schools Initiative

October 15, 2010 ♦ 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Washington Court Hotel, Atrium Ballroom
525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Speaker Biographies

Gordon Berlin

President, MDRC

Gordon Berlin is president of MDRC, a leading research, demonstration, and evaluation organization dedicated to reliably learning what works in education and social policy to improve the lives of low-income people. In addition to the study of small high schools in New York City, MDRC has conducted evaluations of prominent high school reform models, including Career Academies and Talent Development; studied interventions in elementary and middle schools, including Reading First; and developed groundbreaking demonstrations and evaluations in both preschool settings and community colleges.

Before joining MDRC in 1990, Mr. Berlin was executive deputy administrator for Management, Budget, and Policy at the New York City Human Resources Administration. He also served as a program officer and deputy director of the Ford Foundation's urban poverty program, where his portfolio included school-based and community-based initiatives designed to improve educational outcomes of disadvantaged young people. Earlier, he was a program analyst and project officer in the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. He founded, and for seven years served as, the executive director of the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, a Canadian nonprofit formed at the request of the Canadian government to test innovative employment-focused programs. Mr. Berlin has authored and coauthored numerous publications on education and social policy issues.

Michele Cahill

Vice President, National Programs, and Program Director, Urban Education, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Michele Cahill is vice president for national programs and director of urban education at Carnegie Corporation of New York, where she leads the Corporation's strategy to expand educational opportunity through systemic change across K–12 and higher education to increase rates of graduation and degree completion by urban and low-income students, and to support expanded pathways to citizenship, civil participation, and civic integration for immigrants and disconnected youth. Recently, Michele served as the co-chair of the Carnegie-Institute for Advanced Study Commission on Mathematics and Science Education, managing the development of its report, *The Opportunity Equation: Transforming Mathematics and Science Education for the Global Economy and Citizenship*.

Prior to rejoining Carnegie Corporation in 2007, Ms. Cahill served as senior counselor to the chancellor for education policy in the New York City Department of Education under Chancellor Joel Klein. From its inception in 2002, she was a member of the Children First senior leadership team that oversaw and implemented the full-scale reorganization and reform of the New York City public schools, focusing specifically on district redesign, secondary education reform including new school development and the pioneering multiple pathways to graduation initiative, targeting accelerated learning, and graduation by overage and disconnected youth. The secondary education reforms resulted in a more than 20 percent increase in the graduation rate—the largest in decades.

Ms. Cahill has more than thirty years experience in education reform, including a decade as the cofounder of the public policy program, a nationally recognized innovative college degree program for non-traditional students at Saint Peter's College. She began her work in education as a community organizer with out-of-school youth in Jersey City, New Jersey, developing alternative education programs and links to college enrollment.

Ms. Cahill has a BA in urban affairs from Saint Peter's College, an MA in urban affairs from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and pursued doctoral studies in social policy and planning at Columbia University where she was a Revson Fellow.

Deborah Delisle

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education

In October 2008, the Ohio State Board of Education selected Deborah Delisle as the state's thirty-fifth superintendent of public instruction. Prior to this role, Ms. Delisle was superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District. She brings more than thirty-five years of experience to the position of state superintendent, including roles as district superintendent, principal, curriculum director, classroom teacher, and college instructor in education.

Ms. Delisle's background blends real-world educational experience with strong leadership and management skills. Innovation and twenty-first-century creativity mark her career, as *eSchool News* named her a 2008 Tech-Savvy Superintendent. Ms. Delisle is active in the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and was selected by her fellow state school chiefs to serve on CCSSO's board of directors. She was also selected by the CCSSO executive director to serve on national committees for the reauthorization of ESEA, the Next Generation of Learners, and Early Childhood Education. Additionally, she serves on the executive board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and was appointed by Governor Strickland to serve on the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

Jamie Fasteau

Senior Education Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor (Majority Staff),

Jamie Fasteau is the senior education policy advisor for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor where she coleads the committee's K–12 education policy team. Ms. Fasteau most recently served as vice president for federal advocacy at the Alliance for Excellent Education, where she led the organization's secondary school reform federal policy efforts.

Previously, Ms. Fasteau served as legislative assistant for Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) on education, children and families issues, and civil rights, and she also worked on education and civil rights policy for the National Parent Teacher Association, the American Association of University Women, and the U.S. Student Association. Ms. Fasteau is a graduate of Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, California.

Robert O. Glascock

Executive Director, Maryland Breakthrough Center, Maryland State Department of Education

Robert Glascock currently leads organizational and instructional alignment at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to advance student learning in low-achieving schools in Maryland. As executive director of the Breakthrough Center, Maryland's statewide system of support, he coordinates the streamlining and differentiation of services to more effectively and efficiently support districts and schools. Prior to joining MSDE in 2008, Mr. Glascock was assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction, and technology in the Howard County Public School System for eight years—50,000 students and 72 schools); he has thirty-four total years experience as an educator and district administrator in Maryland.

Mr. Glascock's leadership style is guided by the following principles: Children come first, always. Invest in people. When challenges arise, engage and listen. Excel in the present but plan for the future. Communicate the "why"; people may not always agree with the decision, but they are more likely to accept it if they understand it.

Gerry House

President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Student Achievement

Gerry House has been president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Student Achievement (ISA) since April 2000. Prior to joining ISA, she spent fifteen years as a superintendent for schools in Memphis, Tennessee and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dr. House has also served as a teacher, junior and senior high school guidance counselor, principal, and assistant superintendent.

Dr. House is an active leader in the education community, serving on many national boards including the board of directors of the Educational Testing Service (former chair from 2002 to 2005); advisory committee of the Harvard Change Leadership Group; AutoZone board of directors; Woodrow Wilson Foundation board of directors; member of visiting committee for the Harvard Graduate School of Education; national advisory board for National Center for the Study of Privatization in Education (NCSPE); and the New Teacher Project board of directors, among others. Additionally, Dr. House was recently named to the board of trustees of Adelphi University.

Joel I. Klein

Chancellor, New York City Department of Education

Joel Klein became chancellor of New York City schools in July 2002 after serving in the highest levels of government and business. As Chancellor, Mr. Klein oversees over 1,600 schools with 1.1 million students, 136,000 employees, and a \$21 billion operating budget. Mr. Klein's comprehensive education reform program, Children First, is transforming the nation's largest public school system into a system of great schools. The Children First initiatives have made a real difference for New York City students—achievement is up, students and families have more and better choices, schools are safer, and principals are more empowered.

Before Mr. Klein became chancellor, he was chairman and chief executive officer of Bertelsmann, Inc., and chief U.S. liaison officer to Bertelsmann AG until 2002. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Klein was assistant attorney general in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice's antitrust division, acting assistant attorney general, and the antitrust division's principal deputy assistant attorney. Mr. Klein was widely credited with transforming the antitrust division into one of the Clinton administration's greatest successes. Mr. Klein has had a long-standing interest in educational issues. During a leave of absence from law school in 1969, he studied at New York University's School of Education and later taught math to sixth graders at a public school in Queens, New York. Mr. Klein has served as a visiting and adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center and has published several articles in both scholarly and popular journals.

Mr. Klein was born in New York City, attended the city's public schools, and graduated from William Cullen Bryant High School. He received a BA degree from Columbia University and his JD degree from Harvard Law School

Phillip Lovell

Vice President of Federal Advocacy, Alliance for Excellent Education

In March 2010, Phillip Lovell joined the Alliance as vice president of federal advocacy, where he is responsible for leading efforts on Capitol Hill that advocate for federal policy in support of the nation's high schools. Mr. Lovell has spent the past decade advocating for children and youth on Capitol Hill, focusing in areas such as youth development, homelessness, and education.

Mr. Lovell also served as policy coordinator for the National Crime Prevention Council, where he worked with colleague organizations to develop and advocate for the Younger Americans Act, legislation designed to create the nation's first federal youth policy. He also cofounded the National Youth Network, a partnership of over twenty national youth organizations with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that seeks to strengthen the voice of young people with regard to youth violence and juvenile justice.

Most recently, Mr. Lovell served as vice president for education, housing, and youth policy at First Focus. He represented the organization on Capitol Hill and in the media, raising the visibility of the impact of the "Great Recession" on children, and leading legislation promoting a comprehensive approach to education. He has written a number of publications on issues such as children in the federal budget, homeless children and families, and disconnected youth. Mr. Lovell has an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University in international politics.

Randi Weingarten

President, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

Randi Weingarten is president of the 1.5-million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal employees; and early childhood educators. Ms. Weingarten was elected in July 2008, following eleven years of service as an AFT vice president. Previously, Ms. Weingarten served for twelve years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 nonsupervisory educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home childcare providers and other workers in health, law and education.

For ten years, Ms. Weingarten chaired New York City's Municipal Labor Committee, an umbrella organization for the city's one hundred-plus public sector unions, including those representing higher education and other public service employees. As a member of the AFT executive council since 1997, Ms. Weingarten has been involved in every major AFT policy initiative of the last decade. She also served on the AFT executive committee and its democracy committee, and headed the professional compensation committee. Ms. Weingarten has acted as an emissary for the national AFT in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. She is known as a reform-minded leader who has demonstrated her commitment to improving schools, hospitals and public institutions for children, families and their communities. Ms. Weingarten has fought to make sure teachers and school support personnel are treated with respect and dignity, have a voice in the education of their students, and are given the support and resources needed to succeed in the classroom.

Bob Wise

President, Alliance for Excellent Education

Bob Wise is president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. He is author of the book *Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth and Our Nation* and chair of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Since joining the Alliance in February 2005, Governor Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues. He has advised the U.S. Department of Education, White House Transition Team, and frequently testifies before the U.S. Congress.

As governor of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005, he fought for and signed legislation to fund the PROMISE Scholarship program and created the Governor's Helpline for Safer Schools. During his administration, West Virginia saw a significant increase in the number of students completing high school and entering college. From 1983 to 2001, Governor Wise served in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 2nd district of West Virginia, where he aggressively worked to preserve federal financial aid for students to attend college.

Governor Wise serves on the board of directors of the Public Education Network and C-Change. He is an advisory committee member for several organizations including, the Springboard Project, Campaign for Educational Equity, Editorial Projects in Education, the National High School Center, the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools, and the Moffitt Cancer Center. Governor Wise earned a BA degree from Duke University and a JD degree from Tulane University School of Law.