

## School Options in Public Education

Explore the evolution of school options, choice, and reform in American public education. What are the implications of federal education priorities on school options as they pertain to issues of equity, access, quality, and accountability for all students? The session will draw on national and local examples to explore current debates over charter and neighborhood schools, and the ongoing question of how school and district designs can best support students.

**Maria Ferguson**  
**Executive Director, Center on Education Policy**  
**George Washington University**



Maria Voles Ferguson joined the Center on Education Policy (CEP) in June 2012 as the Executive Director. Before coming to the CEP, Maria served as the Vice President for Policy at the Alliance for Excellent Education, a nonprofit policy and advocacy organization in Washington, DC. In that capacity, Ms. Ferguson directed and managed the organization's policy agenda, which provides leadership and information regarding the unique needs of high schools students to Congress, the Administration, business leaders and communities nationwide and advocates for increased support for the nation's secondary schools. Before joining the Alliance, Ms. Ferguson served as Director of the National School Boards Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works in conjunction with the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to strengthen and support school board leadership in local communities. Ms. Ferguson directed the Foundation's operations, managed the Foundation's Board of Trustees, directed fundraising, and served as a liaison with NSBA. Ms. Ferguson also worked as an independent consultant specializing in research, communications, and strategic planning. Ms. Ferguson worked with a wide range of clients, including Target Corporation, The Brookings Institution, the U.S. Department of Education's Regional Education Laboratories, and Sidwell Friends School. Ms. Ferguson served for three years as the Director of Field Operations for New American Schools. In that capacity, she directed a nationwide effort to assist schools and school districts as they implemented exemplary models that comprehensively focus school resources on effective teaching and greater student achievement. Before joining New American Schools, Ms. Ferguson was a political appointee for the Clinton administration at the U.S. Department of Education, serving as the Director of Communication and Outreach Services for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Ferguson began her career as a journalist, working for Cox Newspapers, the Associated Press, and *U.S. News & World Report* magazine. She lives in Chevy Chase, MD with her husband and two children.

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**Patrick Murphy  
Superintendent  
Arlington Public Schools**



Dr. Patrick K. Murphy has been superintendent of Arlington Public Schools since July 1, 2009. An Arlington County resident, Dr. Murphy has been an educator since 1988, serving the Fairfax County Public Schools for 19 of the intervening years in a variety of instructional leadership positions. During the final four years, he served as assistant superintendent for accountability, where he was responsible for testing, research and evaluation, and division- and school-based strategic planning. The Virginia Association of School Superintendents selected Dr. Murphy as its 2015 Virginia Superintendent of the Year and he was a finalist for the 2015 National Superintendent of the Year by AASA. Under his leadership, APS earned the Medallion of Excellence in June 2014 from Virginia's U.S. Senate Productivity Award program based on Baldrige criteria and Arlington's priority for continuous improvement.

Dr. Murphy is a native of Northern Virginia. He attended W.T. Woodson High School and received his bachelor's degree from James Madison University and M.A. and Ed.D. degrees from Virginia Tech.

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**Jacque Patterson  
Chief Community Engagement and Growth Officer  
KIPP DC**



In June 2018, Jacqué Patterson returned to the KIPP DC team and family as the new Chief Community Engagement & Growth Officer. As one of KIPP DC's earliest board members and parents, and a steadfast community advocate for District residents for nearly 25 years, Jacqué has been a long-time advisor to our leadership team and an important part of KIPP DC's history. Prior to June, Jacqué served as the regional director of Rocketship Education in DC. He moved to Washington in 1995 while serving his country in the United States Air Force. He immediately became involved in the communities of Ward 8 where he decided to reside. In 2000, he was elected as an ANC Commissioner representing Single Member District 8B07, serving for 4 terms until 2008. During this time he also was selected as a Capital City Fellow by former DC Mayor Anthony A. Williams, eventually becoming his Community Affairs Coordinator. Before joining Rocketship Education, Jacqué was a Managing Director at the Federal City Council and

Director of Management & Administration at Martha's Table. He has also has been appointed to a number of government and non-profit boards to include DC Advisory Board for Veteran Affairs, Advisory Board for Democrats for Education Reform-DC, Board of Trustees for KIPP DC and Higher Achievement Program. He is a member of the 2006 Class of Leadership Greater Washington. Jacques earned a Bachelors degree in Education from Southern Illinois University and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. He is a member of the 2017 Class of public and charter school leaders currently at Georgetown University participating in the Executive Leadership Masters program

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**Christy Wolfe**  
**Senior Policy Advisor**  
**National Public Charters Association**



Christy Wolfe is the senior policy adviser for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. She has more than 20 years of experience working on federal education policy, and first visited a charter school in 1998 for a U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce field hearing and has been a strong advocate of charter schools ever since. Christy spent eight years at the U.S. Department of Education, serving as the associate deputy secretary for policy. In this role, she managed policy development and implemented regulations for all federal elementary, secondary, and special education programs.

Christy was also a professional staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce, where she worked on major education legislation, including the No Child Left Behind Act. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in American government from the University of Virginia. Christy enjoys spending time with her husband, Paul, and their three children. When she has free time she enjoys horseback riding, cooking, and playing her violin. She was a Global EPFP Senior Fellow in 2018.

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