



School Funding Bootcamp Speaker Bios

Tara Bergfeld is the Director of Resource Strategy for MNPS. In this role, she manages the approximately half of MNPS's \$1b budget that goes directly to schools through the district's weighted student funding formula. Prior to transitioning to MNPS in July 2021, Tara spent nine years at the Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) where she provided policy analysis to the Tennessee General Assembly on topics such as the BEP, teacher salaries, and school board policies.

Ivy Smith Morgan is the associate director of P-12 analytics, Ivy Morgan designs and conducts data and policy analyses that contribute to The Education Trust's work to ensure that students living in poverty and students of color get their fair share of resources — including funding and equitable access to effective educators, school counselors, advanced coursework, and high-quality preschool. Prior to joining Ed Trust, Ivy worked as an education research analyst in the Policy and Program Studies at the U.S. Department of Education. At the Department, Ivy primarily managed medium-term projects and conducted short-term data analyses on a range of P-12 topics including teacher equity, fiscal equity, and socioeconomic diversity. A native of New Haven, Connecticut, Ivy holds a master's degree in public administration from the George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in urban studies and planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Reginald Nash is the External Relations Manager for The Education Trust in Tennessee, where he leads our office's government relations work and supports the strategic partnership building and advocacy efforts of our statewide alliance. He strengthens relationships with policymakers, advocates, and other stakeholders across Tennessee in support of our policy agenda and expanding awareness around key state-level educational equity considerations.

Prior to joining The Education Trust, Reginald was a policy staffer on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. for House Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries of New York, where his issue portfolio included education, housing, taxation, and financial services. He also previously served as a kindergarten teacher in the Frayser community

of Memphis, TN, and in several high-impact policy, advocacy, and leadership development fellowships and political campaigns. Born in southern California but raised in rural southwestern Virginia, Reginald holds a Bachelor's in History from the University of Houston and is currently pursuing his Master's in Public Policy with a K-12 policy specialization at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education.

Mandy Pellegrin joined The Sycamore Institute in 2016 as the Policy Director. She has the lead responsibility for developing the organization's research plan and conducting and curating research and analysis. Mandy holds a master's degree in public policy with a health policy concentration from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University.

Mandy brings with her over a decade of experience in health policy – including as a Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services advising senior HHS leadership under both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama on budget policy issues and as the Health Policy Adviser to U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell (D- NJ), who served on the Ways and Means Committee during the drafting, consideration, and passage of the Affordable Care Act. She began her career in policy as an intern and then bill clerk in the Tennessee General Assembly.

Gini Pupo-Walker has been an educator for over twenty years. She currently serves as the State Director for Tennessee for the Education Trust, where she works with partners across Tennessee who seek to increase educational opportunity and achievement for historically underserved students. She previously worked at Conexión Américas as the Senior Director of Education Policy and Programs, where she oversaw their education policy division as well as their Pre-K and post-secondary programs for students in Nashville and across the state. Gini also served as the Executive Director of Family and Community Partnerships for Metro Nashville Public Schools, and was also a family engagement manager and a teacher at the high school and college level for over 10 years, in Seattle, San Diego and Nashville.

Gini was elected to the school board for Metro Nashville Public Schools in 2018 and represents District 8, which is in west Nashville. She is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Nashville, and a 2018 graduate of Leadership Tennessee. Gini has a B.A. and M.A. from Indiana University, received her teacher licensure from Belmont University, and an M.A. in Education Administration from Tennessee State University.

Zahava Stadler joined the Education Trust in 2020 as the Special Assistant for State Funding and Policy after having led policy research and analysis at EdBuild. At the Education Trust she supports state-led advocacy on funding reform, providing analysis and research. At EdBuild she participated in the production of a number of reports and

research projects, and led the study of state school funding formulas, resulting in the fifty-state formula database FundEd. She also created a detailed set of model funding formula policies, presented in the report Common Sense and

Fairness and the interactive web tool EdBuilder. Prior to working at EdBuild she focused on human capital needs of high-need schools and districts, primarily through projects implemented with Race to the Top funding. She has a B.A. from Princeton University, and an M.A. in Education Policy and an M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

Rep. Mark White was elected to serve District 83 in Memphis in the Tennessee House of Representatives by special election in January 2010 and is currently serving his sixth term in the Tennessee General Assembly. He currently serves as Chairman of the House Education Committee and is a member of the Calendar and Rules Committee and Health Committee. He is a former teacher and principal, and is a small business owner. He received his B.S. from the University of Memphis and and M.A. from Lipscomb University.