

Broader,  
**BOLDER**  
Approach  
to Education

February 22, 2016

# A Broader, Bolder Education Policy Framework

## Executive Summary

*Seven years after the launch of the Broader, Bolder Approach to Education, BBA has moved from marginal to mainstream*, leading scholars affirm the significant barriers to school success posed by poverty; several high-profile reports call for policies to alleviate them; and core components of the BBA agenda – quality early childhood education, support for health care and nutrition, after-school and summer enrichment, and supports-based accountability systems that employ broad measures of student progress – have gained public attention and policy momentum.

Yet child poverty rates are higher than ever, their impacts are compounded by minority racial and English Language Learner status, and education policies still fail to make addressing poverty-related challenges to learning a core priority. Now that Congress has finally reauthorized ESEA, a refreshed BBA with an explicit, expanded policy agenda can build on the promise of the Every Student Succeeds Act to advance state and district policy agendas that effectively mitigate poverty's impacts.

### ***BBA alleviates out-of-school barriers to success through:***

- ***Enriching Early Childhood Experiences.*** A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education narrows the large gaps across multiple domains that exist before children begin school, by combining universal and targeted supports to create a birth-to-5 system of aligned, quality services.

- **Enhancing afterschool and summer opportunities.** A Broader, Bolder Approach alleviates disparities in learning opportunities before and after school and over the summer by providing all students enriching and equitable experiences all day and throughout the year.
- **Improving health.** A Broader, Bolder Approach mitigates health-related disparities in attention and attendance by establishing a strong foundation for all students' physical and mental health and by incorporating wellness into education policies and practice.
- **Promoting better nutrition.** A Broader Bolder Approach ensures that students are not distracted from learning by hunger through a school system supported by other agencies and structured to deliver consistent access to nutritious food without stigma or barriers to access.

### ***BBA narrows opportunity gaps by calling on policymakers to:***

- **Provide equitable funding.** A Broader, Bolder Approach ensures that schools' resources are commensurate with their needs, enabling our public education system to strive toward its historic ideal as a great equalizer that compensates for student disadvantage, rather than compounds it.
- **Promote holistic, supports-based accountability systems.** Recognizing the complexity of the educational process and the interconnected nature of its various parts, A Broader, Bolder calls for a richer and more holistic approach to accountability that builds in supports that are well targeted to promote broad measures of student well-being.
- **Enhance teacher and principal quality.** A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education works to secure every student access to qualified, experienced, dedicated teachers who are led by strong principals. It also builds a professional system that makes teaching and leading in high-needs schools attractive and meaningful.
- **Strengthen accountability for charter schools.** In keeping with how the best-run charters now operate, a Broader, Bolder Approach establishes a framework of rules that enhances the benefits of charters for the students and communities they serve.

### ***BBA strengthens communities to improve schools and student outcomes by***

- **Addressing issues of segregation and concentrated poverty.** A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education prioritizes increasing the racial and socioeconomic integration of schools, a strategy proven to greatly improve the odds of success for disadvantaged students and to benefit all.
- **Grounding reform in community input.** A Broader, Bolder Approach ensures that the voices of parents, students, educators, and school and community leaders are among those central to policy making, providing essential data missing from current discussions.

***A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education aims not just to beat the odds for a few students, as is true of many recent education reforms, but to improve the odds of success for all children.*** Directly tackling poverty-related impediments to teaching and learning ensures all children have meaningful opportunities to learn and to build the foundations for healthy, productive lives.

The good news is that a growing number of urban, suburban, and rural districts across the country have embraced a Broader, Bolder Approach. Some are full-service community schools districts, others are supported by Promise Neighborhood grants and other federal and state initiatives, and a few were established by wealthy individuals with a passion for leveling the playing field. All of them recognize that learning begins long before kindergarten, that the goals of public education extend far beyond reading and writing at grade level, and that the needs and assets of children, their families, and their schools and communities must be the basis for successful education reform.

But these districts are still exceptions, not the norm. Aligning and expanding the policies and funding streams that support them will make these efforts more sustainable, as will having agencies at all levels of government join forces to meet students' and schools' needs. And embedding these changes as core components of federal, state, and local legislation will transport them from the margins to the center of next-generation education policies. At this critical moment, we must seize the opportunity to take a truly Broader, Bolder Approach to Education.

**Ras Baraka**, Mayor, Newark, New Jersey

**Paul Barton** □ Former Director, Educational Testing Service Policy Information Center

**Richard Beury**, Deputy Mayor, New York City Mayor's Office

**Angela Blanchard\***, CEO, Neighborhood Centers, Houston

**Martin Blank\***, President, Institution for Educational Leadership

**Phoebe Boyer**, President and CEO, Children's Aid Society, NYC

**Father Greg Boyle**, Founder, Homeboy Industries

**Betsy Brand**, Executive Director, American Youth Policy Forum

**John Bridgeland**, CEO, Civic Enterprises and former director, White House Domestic Policy Council (Pres. George W. Bush)

**Jean-Claude Brizard**, Partner, Cross and Joftus and former superintendent, Rochester Public Schools

**Peggy Brookins**, President and CEO, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

**Anthony Bryk**, President, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

**Miriam Calderon\***, Director, special projects, BUILD Initiative

**Dan Cardinali**, President, Communities in Schools

**Joan Cole Duffell**, Executive Director, Committee for Children

**James Comer** □ Maurice Faulk Professor of Child Psychiatry and Founder, School Development Program

**Peter Cookson\***, Director, Equity Project, American Institutes for Research

**Ernesto Cortes, Jr.i**, Founder and Director, Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation

**Mark Courtney** □ Professor, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

**Christopher Cross\***, Partner and co-founder, Cross and Joftus

**Cesar Cruz\***, Resident, Homeboys Industries, Los Angeles

**Linda Darling-Hammond** × i, President and CEO, Learning Policy Institute

**Deb Delisle\***, CEO, ASCD

**Dan Domenech**, Executive Director, AASA, the School Superintendents Association

**Peter Edelman\*** i, Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law and Social Policy, Georgetown Law School

**Edward Fiske** □ Founder and Editor, Fiske Guide to Colleges and former *New York Times* education editor

**Patricia Gandara**, Co-director, Civil Rights Project, UCLA

**Angela Glover-Blackwell**, Founder and President, PolicyLink

**Jodi Grant**, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

**The Rev. Sèkinah Hamlin**, Director, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative

**James Harvey\***, Director, National Superintendents Roundtable

**Nancy Hoffman** ×, Vice President, Jobs for the Future

**Terry Holliday**, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky (Retired) and Board Chair, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

**C.J. Huff**, Founder, Bright Futures USA

**Audrey Hutchinson**, Director, Education and Expanded Learning, National League of Cities

**John Jackson\*** i, CEO, Schott Foundation for Public Education

**Christopher Jencks** □ Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy, Harvard University, Kennedy School

**Sharon Lynn Kagan** □ Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University

**David Kirp**\*, James D. Marver Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley

**Helen Ladd**\*\*i, Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy, Duke University

**Deborah Leong**, Executive Director, Tools of the Mind

**Bruce Lesley**, President, First Focus

**Kent McGuire**, President and CEO, Southern Education Foundation

**Rick Neal**, Superintendent, Pea Ridge Arkansas School District

**Pedro Noguera**\*\*i, Distinguished Professor of Education, UCLA and Director, Center for the Study of School Transformation

**Gary Orfield**, Co-director, Civil Rights Project, UCLA

**Thomas Payzant** □ Superintendent, Boston Public Schools (retired)

**Olga Agosta Price**, Director, Center for Health and Health Care in School, George Washington University, and Associate Professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health

**Jane Quinn**, VP, and Director of the National Center for Community Schools, Children's Aid Society, NYC

**Paul Reville**\*\*i, Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and founding director, Education Redesign Lab

**Sanjiv Rao**, Program Officer, Youth Opportunity, Ford Foundation

**Diane Ravitch** □ Education Historian and co-Founder, Network for Public Education

**Sharon Ritchie**, Senior Scientist, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

**Arthur Rolnick**, Senior Fellow, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota and former Senior Vice President and director of research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

**Beth Schiavino Narvaez**, Superintendent, Hartford CT Public Schools

**Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey**\*, President, Say Yes to Education

**Timothy Shriver**, Chairman, Special Olympics

**Warren Simmons\***, Senior Fellow and Former Executive Director, Annenberg Institute for School Reform

**Ralph Smith**, Senior Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Managing Director of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading

**James Gustave Speth** □ Co-chair, Next System Project, The Democracy Collaborative

**Joshua Starr\*\***, CEO, Phi Delta Kappa, International and former superintendent, Montgomery County MD Public Schools

**Carola Suarez-Orozco**, Professor of Education and Co-Director, Institute for Immigration, Globalization, and Education, UCLA

**Marcelo Suarez-Orozco**, Wasserman Dean, Graduate School of Education and Information, UCLA

**Julian Vasquez Heilig**, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Director, Doctorate in Educational Leadership, California State University, Sacramento.

**Paul von Hippel**, Associate Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Policy, University of Texas, Austin

**Kevin Welner\***, Director, National Education Policy Center

\*\* Denotes co-chair

\* Denotes Advisory Board member

× Denotes signature is individual rather than organizational/affiliated

i Denotes original signatory