Andreas Schleicher created the PISA test, an international exam 15-year old students began taking in 2000 that provides comparable data used in evaluating and comparing national education systems. He currently serves as the director of education and skills and is a special advisor on education policy to the Secretary-General at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He has recently released a book, World Class: How to Build a 21st Century School System, which examines good education practices around the world. Schleicher studied Physics in Germany and received a degree in Mathematics and Statistics in Australia.

James Blew is the assistant secretary for planning, evaluation and policy development at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department in July 2018, he advocated for education reform across the nation in positions such as the national president of StudentsFirst, and national director of the Alliance for School Choice. He holds a bachelor's degree from Occidental College and a master's in business administration from the Yale School of Management.

Dr. Mayme Hostetter assumed the role of president of the Relay Graduate School of Education in 2018, having previously served as Relay's national dean, dean of Relay NYC, and founding director of teaching and learning. Before joining Relay in 2008, she conducted reading development research at M.I.T.’s Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and taught at KIPP Academy in the Bronx and Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. Hostetter earned her A.B. in English and American Literature from Harvard College and her Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She earned her doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Kate Walsh has served as the president of the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) since 2003, where she launched the first-ever review and rankings of the nation's teacher preparation programs. Prior to NCTQ, Walsh worked at The Abell Foundation in Baltimore, the Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Core Knowledge Foundation. Walsh also started the first alternative certification program for teachers in Maryland and served on the Maryland State School Board. She graduated with a BA in government from Notre Dame.

Randi Weingarten is the president of the 1.7 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers, paraprofessionals and early childhood educators, among others working in education. Prior to her election as AFT president in 2008, Weingarten served for 12 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law.

Joanne Weiss, the president of Weiss Associates, is an independent consultant to organizations on education programs, technologies, and policy where she focuses on driving systems-level education change through policymaking, grantmaking, and implementation. From 2009-2013, she served in the U.S. Department of Education, first as director of the Race to the Top Program, then as chief of staff to the U.S. Secretary of Education. She has a degree in biochemistry from Princeton University and lives in Washington, D.C.