

# **PUBLIC EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY, AND THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

*Education Deans for Justice and Equity*

January 2017

---

**Education Deans for Justice and Equity**

[www.educationdeans.org](http://www.educationdeans.org)

**National Education Policy Center**

School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, CO 80309-0249  
(802) 383-0058  
[nepc.colorado.edu](http://nepc.colorado.edu)

---

# PUBLIC EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY, AND THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

---

As deans of colleges and schools of education we are committed to a school system that serves all children and youth, providing them with richly engaging, challenging, and supported opportunities to learn. We are equally committed to research-based policy and practice, designing the most effective and just approaches based on critical analyses of past efforts. We are therefore seriously concerned by recent rhetoric of the incoming administration that has already led to increased bullying, violence, and fear in classrooms across the country. The United States can do better, and the incoming administration and Congress have a critical and urgent role to play in healing our country by making good on the promises of public education.

U.S. public education policy should:

## **1. Uphold the role of public schools as a central institution in the strengthening of our democracy.**

Americans share a widespread vision of public education as a universal public good for every child, regardless of background or circumstance. This requires that schools be able to teach, value, and inspire each and every student as we strive towards the highest personal, academic, and social goals, including but extending far beyond readiness for college and career. Students are not merely commodities or consumers, and when we treat education as a competitive marketplace fueled by privatization we set up a system that ensures that some win while many others lose. We urge you to invest in education as a public good and to affirm that every student deserves the very best that our country has to offer.

## **2. Protect the human and civil rights of all children and youth, especially those from historically marginalized communities.**

The federal government has historically played a leading role in advancing educational access and equity, as with the passage and enforcement of civil rights laws, targeted funding to address poverty and resource inequities, and appropriate supports for English-language learners and students with disabilities. But today opportunity gaps remain shockingly large. Americans also have a growing awareness of the unique challenges faced by students across the spectrum of diversity, including LGBTQ youth, Muslim youth, and children of undocumented immigrants or who themselves are undocumented. We urge you to strengthen the role of the federal government to support and advocate for the children and youth who are most vulnerable or targeted.

## **3. Develop and implement policies, laws, and reform initiatives by building on a democratic vision for public education and on sound educational research.**

Our children suffer when we deny that educational inequities exist and when we refuse to invest sufficient time, resources, and effort toward holistic and systemic solutions. The

U.S. educational system is plagued with oversimplified policies and reform initiatives that were developed and imposed without support of a compelling body of rigorous research, or even with a track record of failure. We urge you to build on the ample evidence from the high-quality research that exists about policies and practices that can be effective for improving learning and addressing educational inequities.

#### **4. Support and partner with colleges and schools of education to advance these goals.**

Public schools are successful when they are broadly supported and when they work collectively with others. These partners include families, communities, organizations, and agencies, as well as the colleges and schools of education that prepare many of the professionals working in and with schools (including teachers, health professionals, counselors, leaders, and researchers). Colleges and schools of education, like K-12 public schools, play a vital role in strengthening our democracy, but they are often plagued with regulations and reform initiatives that lack sound research bases and that result in even greater inequities in public schools. We urge you to develop and support policies and resources that advance our public mission.

We are working individually and collectively to highlight and advance these goals, and we stand ready to collaborate with you to do the same.

#### **Contact Information:**

Education Deans for Justice and Equity (EDJE), [www.educationdeans.org](http://www.educationdeans.org)  
Kevin Kumashiro, Former Dean, School of Education, University of San Francisco,  
[kkumashiro@usfca.edu](mailto:kkumashiro@usfca.edu)  
Kathy Schultz, Dean, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder,  
[katherine.schultz@colorado.edu](mailto:katherine.schultz@colorado.edu)

The following 235 current and former deans of colleges and schools of education (or directors or chairs of education departments where there is no separate school of education) have endorsed this statement. Institutions are listed for identification purposes only. Members of the EDJE Steering Committee are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

Cheryl Achterberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University  
Melanie Agnew, Dean, School of Education, Westminster College  
Gregory Anderson, Dean, College of Education, Temple University  
James D. Anderson, Interim Dean, College of Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Lauren Anderson, Chair, Department of Education, Connecticut College  
\* René Antrop-González, Dean, School of Urban Education, Metropolitan State University  
Paul Ballard, Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies, Central Washington University  
Linda Banks-Santilli, Dean, School of Education, Child Life, and Family Studies, Wheelock College  
Heidi Barker, Chair, Education Department, Regis University  
Jim Barta, Dean, Tift College of Education, Mercer University  
Vicki Bartolini, Chair, Education Department, Wheaton College (Norton, MA)  
Carole G. Basile, Dean, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University  
Carol Batker, Former Associate Dean, Graduate Programs/Education, Empire State College - SUNY  
Barbara Beatty, Chair, Department of Education Wellesley College  
April Whitley Bedford, Dean, School of Education, Brooklyn College  
Lee Bell, Former Director, Education Program, Barnard College  
Terry Bergeson, Interim Dean, School of Education and Kinesiology, Pacific Lutheran University  
David C. Berliner, Dean Emeritus, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University  
Sandra Beyda-Lorie, Dean, Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education, Northeastern Illinois University  
Janine Bixler, Chair, Division of Education, Mount Saint Mary College  
Wanda Blanchett, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Kate Boyle, Dean, College of Education and Counseling Psychology, St. Martin's University  
Jane S. Bray, Dean, Darden College of Education, Old Dominion University  
Donna Adair Breault, Dean, College of Education, Ashland University  
Ed Buendia, Dean, School of Educational Studies, University of Washington - Bothell  
Debra B. Burson, Chair, Department of Education, Millsaps College  
Christopher J. Campisano, Director, Program in Teacher Preparation, Princeton University  
Pamela S. Carroll, Dean, College of Education and Human Performance, University of Central Florida  
Prudence L. Carter, Dean, Graduate School of Education, University of California - Berkeley  
Nancy Casey, Interim Dean, School of Education, St. Bonaventure University  
Barbara Catbagan, Chair, Contemplative Education Department, Naropa University  
Marie Chamblee, Dean, School of Education, Health and Human Services, Meredith College  
Cindi Chance, Former Dean, College of Education, Georgia Southern University  
Paul E. Chapman, Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Longwood University  
Anita Charles, Director, Education Department, Bates College  
Anita Chikkatur, Chair, Department of Educational Studies, Carleton College  
Lori Ciccomascolo, Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies, Univ. of RI  
Vicki L. Cohen, Director, School of Education, Fairleigh Dickinson University  
\* Hardin Coleman, Dean, School of Education, Boston University  
Ken Coll, Dean, College of Education, University of Nevada - Reno  
Valerie Martin Conley, Dean, College of Education, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs  
Allen P. Cook, Dean, School of Education, University of Bridgeport  
Edward R. Crowther, Chair, Teacher Education Department, Adams State University  
Cindy Cruz, Former Chair, Department of Education, University of California Santa Cruz

Ada Beth Cutler, Former Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Montclair State University  
 Kathleen DaBoll-Lavoie, Dean, School of Education, Nazareth College  
 Stephen Danna, Dean, Queensbury Branch Campus, SUNY Plattsburgh  
 Mary Ann Danowitz, Dean, College of Education, North Carolina State University  
 Michael E. Dantley, Dean, College of Education, Health and Society, Miami University  
 Karen DeMoss, Former Chair, Education Department, Wagner College  
 Van Dempsey, Dean, Watson College of Education, University of North Carolina - Wilmington  
 Anne Dichele, Interim Dean, School of Education, Quinnipiac University  
 Laura H. Dinehart, Executive Director, School of Education and Human Development, FL International Univ.  
 Joseph V. Doria, Jr., Dean, Caulfield School of Education, Saint Peter's University  
 Marcy P. Driscoll, Dean, College of Education, Florida State University  
 Jacob Easley II, Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies, Eastern Connecticut State University  
 Donald Easton-Brooks, Dean, School of Education, University of South Dakota  
 Arlinda J. Eaton, Dean, Bagwell College of Education, Kennesaw State University  
 Nancy Edick, Dean, College of Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Stacey Edmonson, Dean, College of Education, Sam Houston State University  
 Rick Eigenbrood, Dean, School of Education, Seattle Pacific University  
 Laurie Elish-Piper, Dean, College of Education, Northern Illinois University  
 David E. Fernie, Former Dean, School of Education, Wheelock College  
 Edward Garcia Fierros, Chair, Department of Education and Counseling, Villanova University  
 Margaret Finders, Chair, Department of Education, Augsburg College  
 Scott Fletcher, Dean, Graduate School of Education and Counseling, Lewis & Clark College  
 Larry Flick, Dean, College of Education, Oregon State University  
 \* María Fránquiz, Dean, College of Education, University of Utah  
 Susan Douglas Franzosa, Dean Emerita, Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, Fairfield Univ.  
 Dana Fusco, Chair, Department of Teacher Education, CUNY York College  
 \* Brenda Fyfe, Dean, Webster University School of Education, Webster University  
 Gregg Garn, Dean, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma  
 Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Former Dean, College of Education (University of Mary Washington) and School of Education (Sonoma State University)  
 Jeanne Marcum Gerlach, Former Founding Dean, College of Education, University of Texas Arlington  
 Jack Gillette, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Lesley University  
 \* Maureen Gillette, Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Seton Hall University  
 Amy Ginsberg, Dean, School of Education, Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University  
 Mark R. Ginsberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University  
 Cyndi Giorgis, Dean, College of Education, University of Texas at El Paso  
 Mark Girod, Dean, College of Education, Western Oregon University  
 Christine Givner, Dean, College of Education, SUNY Fredonia  
 \* Sandy Grande, Former Chair, Department of Education, Connecticut College  
 Karen Graves, Chair, Department of Education, Denison University  
 Deirdre C. Greer, Dean, College of Education and Health Professions, Columbus State University  
 \* Margaret Grogan, Dean, College of Educational Studies, Chapman University  
 Victoria Groves-Scott, Dean, College of Education, University of Central Arkansas  
 Leif Gustavson, Dean, College of Education, Pacific University  
 Jean Haar, Dean, College of Education, Minnesota State University - Mankato  
 \* Bob Hannafin, Dean, Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, Fairfield University  
 Alison Harmon, Interim Dean, College of Education, Health & Human Development, Montana State University  
 Tara Haskins, Chair, Department of Education, Eastern Washington University  
 Paul Hastings, Interim Dean, School of Education, University of California - Davis  
 Sam Hausfather, Former Dean, School of Education, Maryville University of St. Louis  
 Grant Hayes, Dean, College of Education, East Carolina University  
 Nancy Heilbronner, Former Interim Dean, School of Education, Mercy College

William Henk, Dean, College of Education, Marquette University  
 John Henning, Dean, School of Education, Monmouth University  
 Nancy H. Hensel, Former Dean, College of Education, University of Maine - Farmington  
 Katy Heyning, Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater  
 Mike Hillis, Dean, Graduate School of Education, California Lutheran University  
 Elizabeth R. Hinde, Dean, School of Education, Metropolitan State University of Denver  
 Randy Hitz, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Portland State University  
 Caryl Hodges, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, Notre Dame de Namur University  
 Marvin Hoffman, Former Associate Director, Urban Teacher Education Program, University of Chicago  
 Adam Howard, Chair, Education Department, Colby College  
 Bob Hughes, Former Dean, College of Education, Seattle University  
 Eunsook Hyun, Dean, College of Education, Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Linda Irwin-DeVitis, Former Dean, Darden College of Education, Old Dominion University  
 Patricia W. Ivry, Interim Dean, School of Professional Studies, Western Connecticut State University  
 John Jacobson, Dean, Teachers College, Ball State University  
 Thomas James, Dean and Provost, Teachers College, Columbia University  
 Louise Jennings, Co-Director, School of Education, Colorado State University  
 Joseph F. Johnson, Jr., Dean, College of Education, San Diego State University  
 Joseph Kahne, Former Dean, School of Education, Mills College  
 Rebecca Kantor, Dean, School of Education and Human Development, University of Colorado Denver  
 Claudine Keenan, Dean, School of Education, Stockton University  
 Gerald Kember, Interim Dean, College of Education, Science, and Mathematics, Viterbo University  
 Gladis Kersaint, Dean, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut  
 Diane Kettle, Dean, School of Education, Mills College  
 Karynne L. M. Kleine, Dean, Division of Education, Young Harris College  
 Thomas Koballa, Dean, College of Education, Georgia Southern University  
 John W. Kohl, Dean Emeritus, College of Education and Human Development, Montana State University  
 Mark A. Kretovcis, Interim Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Services, Kent State University  
 Nora Krieger, Former Chair, Division of Education, Bloomfield College  
 \* Kevin Kumashiro, Former Dean, School of Education, University of San Francisco  
 Andrea Lachance, Dean, School of Education, SUNY Cortland  
 Jaekyung Lee, Dean, Graduate School of Education, University at Buffalo  
 Alan Lesgold, Former Dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh  
 Alice Lesnick, Director, Education Program, Bryn Mawr College  
 Elliott Lessen, Dean Emeritus, School of Education, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
 Marya R. Levenson, Levitan Director, Education Program, Brandeis University  
 Jeffrey R. Lindauer, Dean, School of Education and Human Services, Canisius College  
 Donald R. Livingston, Chair, Education Department, LaGrange College  
 \* Tamara Lucas, Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Montclair State University  
 Marvin Lynn, Dean, School of Education, Indiana University South Bend  
 C. Rexton Lynn, Assistant Dean, Teacher Education Program, Ramapo College of New Jersey  
 Ronald Marx, Dean, College of Education, University of Arizona  
 Joanna Masingila, Dean, School of Education, Syracuse University  
 Lindsay Clare Matsumura, Interim Dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh  
 Erin McCloskey, Chair, Education Department, Vassar College  
 Jeffrey A. McCubbin, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences, Colorado State University  
 Patricia Alvarez McHatton, Dean, College of Education and P-16 Integration, Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
 Ellen McIntyre, Dean, College of Education, University of North Carolina Charlotte  
 Virginia McLaughlin, Former Dean, School of Education, College of William and Mary  
 Debra K. Meyer, Former Chair, Department of Education, Elmhurst College  
 Nicholas M. Michelli, Dean Emeritus, College of Education and Human Services (Montclair State University)  
 and Teacher Education (CUNY)

Michael Middleton, Dean, School of Education, Hunter College  
 Renée A. Middleton, Dean, Gladys W. & David H. Patton College of Education, Ohio University  
 Danny Mielke, Dean, Colleges of Business and Education, Eastern Oregon University  
 Gayle Mindes, Former Dean, College of Education, DePaul University  
 Allan Morotti, Former Dean, School of Education, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Laurie Mullen, Dean, College of Education, Towson University  
 J. Patrick Naughton, Director, Teacher Education Programs, The Evergreen State College  
 Spencer Niles, Dean, School of Education, The College of William & Mary  
 Catherine O'Callaghan, Chair, Education Department, Western Connecticut State University  
 Rachel Oppenheim, Director, School of Education, Antioch University Seattle  
 John D. Palmer, Chair, Department of Educational Studies, Colgate University  
 Jeff Passe, Dean, School of Education, The College of New Jersey  
 Wendy A. Paterson, Dean, School of Education, SUNY Buffalo State College  
 Jon Pedersen, Dean, College of Education, University of South Carolina  
 George J. Petersen, Founding Dean, College of Education, Clemson University  
 Randy Penfield, Dean, School of Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
 Tom Phillion, Dean, College of Education, Roosevelt University  
 Robert Pianta, Dean, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia  
 Terri Pigott, Dean, School of Education, Loyola University Chicago  
 Jeff Piquette, Interim Associate Dean, Teacher Education Program, Colorado State University - Pueblo  
 \* Don Pope-Davis, Dean, College of Education, New Mexico State University  
 Isaac Prilleltensky, Dean, School of Education and Human Development, University of Miami  
 Stewart Purkey, Director, Teacher Education, Lawrence University  
 Mary Ann Rafoth, Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences, Robert Morris University  
 Reid Riggle, Co-Chair, Education Department, St. Norbert College  
 \* Francisco Rios, Dean, Woodring College of Education, Western Washington University  
 Virginia Roach, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Fordham University  
 Elisa Robyn, Dean, College of Contemporary Liberal Studies, Regis University  
 David Rock, Dean, School of Education, University of Mississippi  
 Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Dean, College of Education, Southeast Missouri State University  
 John Romans, Dean, College of Education, Oklahoma State University  
 Catherine Rosemary, Chair, Department of Education and School Psychology, John Carroll University  
 Paul Rowland, Former Dean, College of Education, University of Idaho  
 AG Rud, Former Dean, College of Education, Washington State University  
 Rose Rudnitski, Dean, School of Education, Mercy College  
 Michael R. Sampson, Dean, School of Education, St. John's University  
 \* Deanna Sands, Dean, College of Education, Seattle University  
 Doris A. Santoro, Chair, Education Department, Bowdoin College  
 Eugene C. Schaffer, Former Chair, Department of Education, University of Maryland Baltimore County  
 \* Kathy Schultz, Dean, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder  
 Deborah Shanley, Interim Dean, School of Education, Lehman College - City University of New York  
 Eugene P. Sheehan, Dean, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, University of North Colorado  
 Ena Shelley, Dean, College of Education, Butler University  
 Lorrie Shepard, Former Dean, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder  
 Dawn Shinew, Dean, College of Education and Human Development, Bowling Green State University  
 Alan R. Shoho, Dean, School of Education, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
 Christopher Sindt, Dean, Kalmanovitz School of Education, Saint Mary's College of California  
 \* Timothy Sleskar, Dean, School of Education, Edgewood College  
 \* Graciela Slesaransky-Poe, Former Founding Dean, School of Education, Arcadia University  
 Joan K. Smith, Dean Emeritus, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma  
 Joshua Smith, Dean, School of Education, Loyola University Maryland  
 Thomas M. Smith, Dean, Graduate School of Education, University of California - Riverside

Lisa Smulyan, Former Chair, Department of Educational Studies, Swarthmore College  
Roy Sonnema, Dean, College of Arts, Letters and Education, Eastern Washington University  
Bruce Spitzer, Dean, School of Education, Quincy University  
Melba Spooner, Dean, Reich College of Education, Appalachian State University  
Janet Stocks, Dean, School of Education, Trinity Washington University  
Susan Strehle, Interim Dean, Graduate School of Education, Binghamton University SUNY  
Marcelo M. Suarez-Orozco, Dean, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, UCLA  
Deborah Summers, Director, School of Education, California State University, Chico  
Alfred W. Tatum, Dean, College of Education, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Ann Taylor, Interim Dean, College of Education, University of Missouri - St. Louis  
\* Kenneth Teitelbaum, Dean, College of Education, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Scott L. Thomas, Dean, College of Education and Social Services, University of Vermont  
Josh Thomases, Dean, Bank Street College of Education  
Mara Casey Tieken, Co-Chair, Education Department, Bates College  
Eva Travers, Former Chair, Department of Educational Studies, Swarthmore College  
Mike Trevisan, Dean, College of Education, Washington State University  
\* Mia Tuan, Dean, College of Education, University of Washington  
Joelle Tutela, Director, College of Education, William Paterson University  
Lelia L. Vickers, Dean, College of Education, Harris-Stowe State University  
Carol Vukelich, Dean, School of Education, University of Delaware  
Marue E. Walizer, Former Director, Program in Teacher Preparation, Princeton University  
Cindy M. Walker, Dean, School of Education, Duquesne University  
Andrew F. Wall, Dean, School of Education, University of Redlands  
Judith Warren Little, Former Dean, Graduate School of Education, University of California - Berkeley  
Kimberly A. White-Smith, Dean, LaFetra College of Education, University of La Verne  
Felicia L. Wilczenski, Interim Dean, College of Education and Human Development, Univ. of MA Boston  
Dawn Williams, Interim Dean, School of Education, Howard University  
\* Monika Williams Shealey, Dean, College of Education, Rowan University  
Karen K. Wixson, Dean Emerita, Schools of Education, University of NC Greensboro and University of MI  
Michael Wright, Dean, College of Education, University of Central Missouri  
Marcie Wycoff-Horn, Dean, School of Education, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse  
Diane Yendol-Hoppey, Dean, College of Education and Human Services, University of North Florida  
Donald B. Young, Dean, College of Education, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Lydia Young, Interim Associate Dean, Graduate School of Education, Northeastern University  
Sabrina Zirkel, Dean, School of Education and Counseling Psychology, Santa Clara University