

State and TUDA Task Force Updates

Background on State Task Force

Since September 2007, the National Assessment Governing Board (Governing Board) has collaborated with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) through a joint Task Force. The Task Force is charged with providing feedback to the Governing Board on policy areas and activities related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The dual goals of this collaboration are (1) to inform the Governing Board's policy-setting work with state perspectives and (2) to implement joint initiatives under the Governing Board's legislative mandate.

The Task Force comprises 12 leaders in state educational agencies. The members currently include two state chiefs, seven deputy or assistant superintendents, and three public information (or communications) officers. Members are chosen based on their expertise and interest in assessment and geographic representation of the nation. They offer diverse viewpoints, which lend invaluable insight into the Governing Board's deliberations about NAEP. The membership roster changes on an ongoing basis as members transition between roles within state education agencies or transition out of state employment entirely. The current members are listed below:

State Policy Task Force Membership 2023

Audra Ahumada	Arizona	Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment
Dan Farley	Oregon	Assessment Director
Tracy Hinds	Missouri	Deputy Commissioner
Tammy Howard	North Carolina	Senior Director, Office of Accountability and Testing
David Jespersen	Nebraska	Public Information Officer
Abe Krisst (Vice Chair)	Connecticut	Assessment Bureau Chief
Lily Laux	Texas	Deputy Commissioner of School Programs
Victoria Robinson	Tennessee	Director of Communications
Michael Sibley (Chair)	Alabama	Director of Communications
Viji Somasundaram	Wisconsin	Director, Office of Educational Accountability
Zachary Warner	New York	Associate Commissioner, Office of State Assessment
Thomas Woods-Tucker	Kentucky	Deputy Commissioner of Education

The Task Force meets three times a year, during which Task Force members share general updates about their states and specifically about their assessment programs and NAEP. In recent months, the Governing Board has sought Task Force member

feedback on transitioning to reduced contact NAEP administration, messaging NAEP 2022 results, and updating NAEP assessment frameworks.

About once a year, the Governing Board invites a representative of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the chair of the State Policy Task Force to present task force accomplishments, share progress updates, and offer advice at a quarterly board meeting. At this meeting, Jonathan Moore, the Chief Strategy Officer at CCSSO, will present along with Task Force Chair Michael Sibley from Alabama. Both panelists' biographies are presented below.

Background on Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) Task Force

Led by the Council of the Great City Schools (the Council), the Governing Board started the TUDA program in 2002 with just six districts. The Council advocated for using NAEP to measure educational progress in large urban school districts and to enable comparisons across large urban districts, states, and the nation. The value of the program is manifest through districts' continued interest in participating voluntarily (26 districts in NAEP 2022), the Council's use of TUDA results to inform districts' efforts, and ongoing support from Congress for the TUDA program.

The goal of the TUDA Task Force is to seek district input and feedback to improve the TUDA program and to inform the Governing Board's efforts both broadly and specifically to promote the use of TUDA data. At the last TUDA Task Force meeting, the task force provided guidance to the Board on the Board's Strategic Vision and NAEP efforts in the post-pandemic context.

The TUDA Task Force also affords its ten members opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions about policy and assessment with education leaders from other large urban districts. Membership comprises district superintendents, deputy or associate superintendents, research and evaluation or assessment directors, and public information or communications officers.

The membership turns over completely with the onset of each new biennial contract. The current task force members are listed below:

TUDA Task Force Membership 2023

Monica Armenta	Albuquerque	Executive Director, Communications
Yolonda Brown	Atlanta	Chief Academic Officer
Apryl Clarkson	Boston	Director of Research

Theresa D. Jones	Baltimore City	Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer
Brenda Larsen-Mitchell	Clark County	Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Whitney Oakley	Guilford County	Superintendent
Angie Gaylord	Dallas	Chief Academic Officer
Chrystal Wilson	Detroit	Assistant Superintendent of Communication
Tonya Wolford	Philadelphia	Chief of Evaluation, Research and Accountability
Simone Wright	Denver	Chief of Academics

The task force meets twice a year, in March and in October, in conjunction with the Council’s conferences. Once a year, the Governing Board invites the executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools, Ray Hart, and Akisha Osei-Sarfo, the Council’s research director and lead for the TUDA Task Force, to provide highlights from the task force’s work and plans for future discussion. Their biographies follow below.



Dr. Raymond C. Hart is the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools. Hart, who has more than 30 years of experience in research and evaluation, was previously the Director of Research for the Council, and his work has spanned policy areas such as post-secondary success and college readiness, professional learning communities and school improvement, teacher effectiveness and value-added analysis, early childhood education, and adult and workforce literacy. He has worked with a number of federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of State, the National Science Foundation, and many state and local departments of education.

Hart recently led the Analytic Technical Support Task for the Regional Educational Laboratory – Mid Atlantic. He served as the Executive Director of Research, Planning and Accountability for Atlanta Public Schools, President and CEO of RS Hart and Partners, which is an evaluation and assessment consulting firm, and an Assistant Professor of Research, Measurement, and Statistics at Georgia State University. Prior to his work as a consultant, Hart served as the Director of the Bureau of Research Training and Services at Kent State University. His career began in 1989 as a program director for African American, Hispanic, and Native American students in Engineering and Science.

Hart holds a Ph.D. in Evaluation and Measurement from Kent State University, a M.Ed. with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction – Educational Research from Cleveland

State University, and a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Dr. Jonathan Moore is the Chief Strategy Officer at CCSSO. In this role he leads the internal teams that oversee CCSSO's professional learning networks, data and technology initiatives, educational equity, high-quality instructional materials, assessment, accountability and student supports, all in alignment with CCSSO's Strategic Plan Framework. Prior to joining CCSSO, Moore served as the Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement and Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Nevada Department of Education where he aligned resources to support the state's highest graduation rate on record and also launched the state's portrait of a learner. He also served as a Deputy Associate Superintendent at the Arizona Department of Education where he oversaw K-12 Academic Standards and Professional Learning and led the creation of Arizona's computer science standards.

In addition to his service in state education leadership roles, he has served as a principal, assistant principal, instructional coach, and adjunct faculty. Moore began his career by joining Teach For America as a middle school social studies teacher in Phoenix, Arizona.

He holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership and innovation from Arizona State University, a master's degree in secondary education from Arizona State University, and bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Studies from Loyola University Chicago.



Akisha Osei Sarfo, Ph.D. is the Director of Research for the Council of Great City Schools. She uses her years of experience and interest in program evaluation, experimental and quasi-experimental research design, urban education, race and equity in education, education policy, teacher quality and school accountability to help guide and support research and data use in Council districts. Prior to joining CGCS, Sarfo served as senior associate partner at Bellwether Education Partners. Most significantly, she served as Chief Performance Officer at Guilford County Schools in North Carolina, the 47th largest school district in

the country. In this role, she led the division of Accountability, Research and Planning which is responsible for research, evaluation, accountability, and grant activities for the district as well as local and state assessments, planning, student information, student and school performance, analysis and reporting. As part of the Superintendent's Cabinet, she focused on the strategic and effective use of data, research and evaluation to inform changes throughout the district with an emphasis on reducing inequities in educational systems, policies and performance. She and her team received the Excellence in Education Data award from Harvard's Strategic Data Project for her work in Guilford County Schools.

Prior to working in Guilford, Sarfo worked as research assistant professor at the Center for Research on Education and Social Policy at the University of Delaware and as a Harvard Strategic Data Project fellow. She has served in other roles conducting research and evaluation at state and federal agencies and in the nonprofit sector. She earned a bachelor's in Political Science and a master's in Educational Research Methods from the University of Michigan. She also received her Ph.D. in Education Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics from the University of Delaware and is an AERA Dissertation Fellow.



As Director of Communications for the Alabama Department of Education, **Dr. Michael Sibley** leads the team responsible for communicating education policies, programs, and events with state and national news media, as well as internal and external publics and other education advocacy groups.

Prior to joining the State Department of Education, Sibley served as Director of Communication and oversaw the efforts of Tuskegee University's Public Relations and Marketing department. His responsibilities included overseeing and coordinating the development of internal and external communications at Tuskegee University.

Before accepting the position at Tuskegee University, he worked as Director of Communication for Guilford Capital Corporation in Montgomery, AL. Sibley began his career in Communications and Public Relations as the Director of Public Relations for Troy University where his responsibilities included being a media liaison and spokesperson for Troy University as well as editor, writer, and layout/designer for the Troy University System Magazine.

Sibley was also a news reporter for The Messenger newspaper in Troy, AL. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations from Troy University; a Master's degree in Management from Troy University Montgomery; and a Doctorate in Education Leadership, Policy, and Law from Alabama State University.