



IPPSR PUBLIC POLICY FORUM SERIES FALL 2021 – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

COVID-19 AND K-12 EDUCATION RECOVERING FROM LEARNING LOSS; INVESTING IN EDUCATION



KATHARINE STRUNK, PHD, PROFESSOR AND ERICKSON DISTINGUISHED CHAIR, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Katharine O. Strunk is a professor of education policy and, by courtesy, economics, and the Clifford E. Erickson Distinguished Chair in Education and the faculty director of the Michigan State University Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC). She is also president-elect of the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP). Strunk's current research through EPIC is focused on working with local and state education agencies on studies that will help them inform policy and practice.

Rooted in the fields of economics and public policy, Strunk's work centers on structures that are central to district operations and policy and the ways these structures affect policymakers' decisions and outcomes. Her research focuses on three areas under the broad umbrella of K-12 education governance: teachers' unions and the collective bargaining agreements they negotiate with school districts, teacher labor markets and accountability policies. Strunk's most recent work includes studying teacher labor market responses to policy reforms in Michigan, teacher, school and district accountability and support policies in the Los Angeles Unified School District and throughout Michigan, and portfolio management reforms in Los Angeles, Denver and New Orleans.



JACQUELINE GARDNER, PHD, DIRECTOR OF DATA AND EVALUATION, OFFICE OF K-12 OUTREACH, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jacqueline Gardner is the Director of Data and Evaluation at the Office of K-12 Outreach, College of Education, Michigan State University (MSU). In this position Dr. Gardner supports the data needs of Michigan schools and districts, specifically focusing on navigating State of Michigan Accountability Requirements and student assessment data.

Gardner oversees, coordinate, and collaborates around all data and evaluation projects for K-12 Outreach. Gardner also supports qualitative and quantitative research, practice, and policy initiatives. Gardner has co-authored research articles published in nationally refereed journals and a book for the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). Gardner is also an MSU Education Policy Fellowship Program Alum.

Gardner earned her Ph.D. in Education Policy from Michigan State University in 2020. Recently, Gardner and colleagues partnered with the Michigan Association of School Administrators to examine substitute teacher policies and practices in Michigan K-12 public school districts while simultaneously exploring the substitute teacher labor market.