



2016 Review Board

Each year, a group of prominent education experts from across the country chooses the top three charter management organizations in the country from among the eligible charters and selects the winner. They review student achievement data—including more than 100 measures reflecting students' college readiness, achievement gaps and proficiency levels—collected from states with eligible charter management organizations, the College Board and ACT and analyzed by an independent research organization. The review board meets to discuss, debate and finally select a winner by secret ballot.

Christopher Cross founded Cross & Jofus, LLC in 2004 to provide education leaders with personalized and expert assistance in policy analysis and development, evaluation, executive coaching, planning and communication strategies. Cross is a former Senior Fellow with the Center on Education Policy and is currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow with the Education Commission of the States. Previously, he served as president and CEO of the Council for Basic Education and as an assistant secretary of education under President George H.W. Bush. He also served as president of the Maryland State Board of Education from 1994 to 1997 and is the author of *Political Education: Setting the Course for State and Federal Policy*, published by Teachers College Press.

Jane Hannaway is a professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and an Institute Fellow at the American Institutes of Research (AIR). She is the founding Director of the National Center for the Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER), headquartered at AIR where she was also Vice President. Hannaway is also the immediate past president of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, and previously served as founding director of the Education Policy Center at the Urban Institute and on the faculty of Columbia, Princeton and Stanford universities. Her current re-search is heavily focused on issues associated with teacher labor markets and education accountability policies.

Margot Rogers is senior advisor to the Education Practice at Parthenon-EY. Prior to joining Parthenon, she was chief of staff to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Rogers also has served in multiple roles at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, including deputy director of education and the special assistant to the director of education, where she managed the development of the foundation's college-ready education strategy and staff realignment, and also served on the education division's investment committee and strategic leadership team. She has served on numerous education-related boards and advisory commissions and is currently on the Board of Directors for The Joyce Foundation.

Nelson Smith is senior advisor to the National Association for Charter School Authorizers. He was the first president and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools from 2004 to 2010. Previously, Smith served as vice president for policy and governance at New American Schools, as the first executive director of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board, and as vice president for education and workforce development at the New York City Partnership. He has also taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has authored numerous reports and studies on charter schooling and educational policy.

Christopher B. Swanson is the vice president of Editorial Projects in Education, the nonprofit corporation that publishes Education Week. As a member of EPE's senior leadership team, his responsibilities include project and product development, strategic planning, fundraising activities, and building relationships with other organizations working to advance American education. Swanson heads EPE's research and development division, which includes the EPE Research Center, library, and knowledge services units, as well as Education Week Press. Swanson is a frequent commentator on a variety of issues, among them: high school dropout and completion, educational policy and research, standards and accountability, instructional reform, student mobility, and public school choice.

Martin West is associate professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is also deputy director of the Harvard Kennedy School's Program on Education Policy and Governance, executive editor of Education Next, a journal of opinion and research on education policy, and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. West studies the politics of K-12 education in the United States and how education policies affect student learning and non-cognitive development. His current projects include studies of public opinion on education policy, school and teacher effects on non-tested skills, and the influence of pay on teacher quality. In 2013-14, West worked as senior advisor to the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. He previously taught at Brown University and was a research fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, where he is now a non-resident senior fellow. He is also a founding board member of Rhode Island Mayoral Academies, an organization helping educators open economically diverse public charter schools in partnership with mayors.

Priscilla Wohlstetter is Distinguished Research Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. Prior to her appointment at TC, Wohlstetter held the Diane and MacDonald Becket Professorship in Education Policy at the University of Southern California, where she founded and directed the Center on Educational Governance. Her research and writing has focused broadly on the policies and politics of K-12 education reform and specifically on charter schools, public-private partnerships, school networks, and most recently, implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Her latest book (co-authored with J. Smith & C.C. Farrell) is Choices & Challenges: Charter School Performance in Perspective (Harvard Educational Press).
