



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Aileen Ma
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/11/2022 Return: 10/13/2022
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Stevensville, MD Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Aspen Institute, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
 Working sessions and expert panels exploring how state and local education agencies are implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in the context of the COVID pandemic, including how states and districts are restarting accountability, federal school identification, and formal school-improvement processes.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda.
Signify statement is true by checking the box.
 b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Date: 10/28/2022

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Robert C. "Bobby" Scott Date: 10/28/22

Signature of Supervising Member:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within ten days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: _____

2. Travel Destination(s): _____

3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ *Matt Green* _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives


COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Aileen Ma
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation , Aspen Institute
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Stevensville, MD
4. a. Date of Departure: October 11, 2022 Date of Return: October 13, 2022
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.
Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
The purpose of the trip is to explore how state and local educational agencies are implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with a focus on restarting federal accountability and school improvement efforts. As a Professional Staff Member for the Committee, this directly pertains to my work, as my portfolio includes Title I of ESSA (ie. accountability and school improvement efforts).
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member  Date 9/8/2022



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: _____ Date of return: _____
7. a. City of departure: _____
b. Destination(s): _____
c. City of return: _____
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Meeting Space creates atmosphere to support
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates			
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		


NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check only one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable*. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: Executive Vice President, Policy & Public Programs

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org Telephone: 202-736-5859 (Lisa Jones, Deputy General Counsel)

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2022

Ms. Aileen Ma
Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Ma:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Stevensville, Maryland, scheduled for October 11 to 13, 2022, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc. and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman



Michael Guest
Acting Ranking Member

TED/MG:smm

Aspen Senior Congressional Education Staff Network Retreat
Restarting Accountability and School Improvement in the Endemic Era

Kent Island Resort
Stevensville, MD

October 11-13, 2022

The House employees invited (listed below) are senior education staff responsible for education issues; they are invited specifically because of their education portfolio to meet with leaders and educational experts from states, districts, research, and support organizations to engage in non-partisan dialogue on the impact of federal policy on different levels of the education system.

HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Aileen Ma

Majority Professional Staff
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Rashage Green

Director of Education Policy, Counsel
House Education and Labor Committee

Melissa Bellin

Majority Professional Staff
House Committee on Education and Labor

Agenda

Retreat Goals:

- Explore how state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) are implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in the context of the COVID pandemic, including how states and districts are restarting accountability, federal school identification, and formal school-improvement processes;
- Understand how SEAs and LEAs are responding to the ongoing COVID endemic, including how they have used, or plan to use, federal relief dollars and early lessons learned, particularly around addressing learning loss and student well-being, and how this relates to formal school-improvement processes;
- Examine the impact of COVID on assessment and accountability policy and practice, including considerations of what a “new normal” may be;
- Engage in active learning and build working relationships with education leaders from the field, as well as with colleagues from different parties and chambers.

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

4:00 PM

Arrival and Check-In

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Opening Reception and Overview of Retreat

Aspen team to provide brief welcoming remarks about resuming in-person retreats, high-level summary of the retreat, and hoped-for education and relational outcomes. Light refreshments will be served.

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Setting the Context: Fireside Chat with Carey Wright

Staff will have the opportunity to hear from – and engage with – a celebrated former chief state school officer, who spent a decade leading Mississippi’s Department of Education after a distinguished career in schools and districts. Carey Wright has deep insights into the intersection of federal policy and leading large-scale, system-level change efforts and will share lessons learned in her leadership inclusive of federal accountability and school improvement

Speakers:

- Carey Wright, former Mississippi Superintendent of Education

7:00 – 8:30 PM Working Dinner

A plated dinner will be served with continued discussion from the fireside chat and overview of the upcoming agenda for the convening.

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

7:30 – 8:45 AM Breakfast**8:45 – 9:00 AM Agenda Review and Retreat Objectives**

To guide the retreat's discussion, Congressional staff and faculty members will share their top learning objectives for the convening as well as share any thoughts from the previous evening's programming.

9:00 – 10:00 AM [Session I: What Do We Know About the State of Education Systems and Student Outcomes](#)

What is the state of education systems, at the state and local levels, when looking at on-the-ground indicators like attendance, student well-being, student outcomes, academic regression/acceleration, and more.

Guiding Questions:

- *What does the data tell us about the state of enrollment, student well-being, and academic regression/acceleration? What measures are providing the most information/greatest insight?*
- *How have states fared with administering assessments, including formative, interim and summative assessments?*
- *What data is there about other accountability indicators like chronic absenteeism, student discipline, etc.?*
- *What data do we have about the performance and well-being of students with disabilities and English learners?*
- *What other data (climate, OTL (Opportunities to Learn), teacher retention surveys) provide insights about the state of education?*

Faculty:

- Margie Vandeven, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Shirley Vargas, Senior Administrator, Office of Coordinated School and District Support, Nebraska Department of Education
- Kristen Danusis, Director, Office of School & District Improvement, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Michael Hinojosa, former Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District, Texas
- Nate Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, Accelerated Improvement Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky
- Tonya Strozier, Principal, Holladay Elementary School, Tucson, Arizona
- Sabrina Doublin, Principal, Marquand-Zion High School, Marquand, Missouri

10:00 – 10:15 AM Break and Individual Reflection

10:15 – 11:45 AM

Session II: Restarting Accountability: State and District Perspectives

This session will focus on the challenges, opportunities, successes, and unanswered questions from the unprecedented “restart” of accountability systems.

Guiding Questions:

- *How has restarting federal accountability been managed and communicated to stakeholders and the public? How is the broader context (e.g., learning loss, teacher shortages, federal emergency funds) influencing this re-start and how it is framed publicly?*
- *What accountability plan adjustments and amendments are being made to address short, medium, long-term needs and goals? How is the U.S. Department of Education engaging in the process?*
- *How are states measuring growth, as well as adjusting other accountability indicator weights (or changing indicators entirely) in response to the post-pandemic reality (e.g., to account for missing data from pandemic years)?*
- *Will states need to reset their accountability timelines coming out of the pandemic?*
- *How are districts working with schools identified before the pandemic? How will they exit those schools?*
- *Are too many schools being identified for improvement under the federal system?*

Faculty:

- Margie Vandeven, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Shirley Vargas, Senior Administrator, Office of Coordinated School and District Support, Nebraska Department of Education
- Kristen Danusis, Director, Office of School & District Improvement, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Michael Hinojosa, former Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District, Texas
- Nate Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, Accelerated Improvement Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky

11:45 – 1:00 PM

Working Lunch

During lunch, participants will be seated with faculty and given the opportunity to continue discussion from the morning’s session.

1:00 – 2:15 PM

Session III: School Improvement Implementation

In this session, staff will examine how districts and schools are employing specific strategies and tactics to meet immediate needs and address longer-term challenges and opportunities in school improvement.

Guiding Questions:

- *What is the first/most important need that must be addressed before any school improvement work can begin/or be successful?*
- *How is student mental health being supported and what impact does that have on school and student performance?*
- *How does each level (federal, state, and if it exists, district, accountability) in the system work together – or not?*

- *Are districts more accountable/more supportive of school improvement work now than in the past? Why or why not?*
- *To what extent is the teacher shortage/teacher overwork impacting school improvement efforts?*
- *What is the impact of federal identification on improving or turning-around schools?*

Faculty:

- Michael Hinojosa, former Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District, Texas
- Nate Meyer, Assistant Superintendent Accelerated Improvement Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky
- Tonya Strozier, Principal, Holladay Elementary School, Tucson, Arizona
- Sabrina Doublin, Principal, Marquand-Zion High School, Marquand, Missouri

2:15– 2:30 PM Break and Individual Reflection

2:30 – 3:00 PM **Partner Walk:** Discuss learnings and implications from the opening three sessions to guide the discussion in the next session regarding building coherence across systems and the following sessions the next day.

3:00 – 4:15 PM **Session IV: Building Coherence Across Systems**

Faculty will discuss how the multitude of programs and funding at the federal, state, and local levels can be misaligned and how leaders are working to bring greater coherence to be more efficient and effective.

Guiding Questions:

- *How much overlap is there between responding to learning loss/accelerating learning activities and school improvement?*
- *What systems or processes can be utilized to build greater alignment between various federal and state plans, reporting, and monitoring activities?*
- *Are there ways leaders can align ESSA accountability and IDEA accountability? What about with ESSER, state and local programs and funding?*
- *How are new investments/policies related to “community schools” being coordinated with school improvement strategies?*
- *What are the obstacles to greater coherence across systems, programs, and funding?*
- *How can coherence be established across multiple years?*

Faculty suggestions:

- Margie Vandeven, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Shirley Vargas, Senior Administrator, Office of Coordinated School and District Support, Nebraska Department of Education
- Kristen Danusis, Director, Office of School & District Improvement, Rhode Island Department of Education

4:15 – 4:30 PM Taking Stock: Staff Reflections and Feedback to Guide Remaining Discussions

5:30 – 6:30 PM Networking Hour with Expert Faculty

Staffers will have the opportunity to network with expert faculty.

6:30 – 8:30 PM Dinner with Discussion of Earlier Sessions

A plated dinner will be served, participants and faculty will be seated together and will use time together to reflect on the day's session and prepare for the final day's content.

Thursday, October 13

7:30 – 8:45 AM Breakfast**8:45 – 9:00 AM Staff Reflections and Feedback to Guide Remaining Discussion****9:00 – 10:15 AM [Session V: Coordinating School Improvement, ESSER Funds, and Other Sources of Funding](#)**

This session will focus on how SEAs and LEAs are coordinating the various sources of funding available for maximum effect, including the challenges in doing so.

Guiding Questions:

- *What do we know about how SEAs and LEAs are spending stimulus funds (ESSER, CARES, GEAR, etc.) on learning loss/accelerating learning and does that align with using federal school improvement funds?*
- *Are ESSER funds being coordinated with other federal, state, and/or local funding sources? Are there particular pain points in blending or braiding ESSER funds with other sources of funding?*
- *Do different federal funding streams align with each other or with other state funding sources? How much can funding be blended or braided?*
- *How was federal school improvement funding used during the pandemic?*
- *How have stakeholders been consulted and engaged throughout the process?*
- *How can initiatives starting during the pandemic/endemic era be sustained?*

Faculty:

- Margie Vandeven, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Shirley Vargas, Senior Administrator, Office of Coordinated School and District Support, Nebraska Department of Education
- Kristen Danusis, Director, Office of School & District Improvement, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Michael Hinojosa, former Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District, Texas

10:15 – 10:30 AM Break and Individual Reflection**10:30 – 11:45 AM [Session VI: District Roundtable](#)**

The District Roundtable will be composed of faculty with district roles as well as two invited speakers representing local district staff who will engage in a discussion of their specific situations relative to the topics below with a goal of generalizing those experiences to a broader set of districts.

Topics for discussion:

- *How are districts addressing the impact of the pandemic on students, including student mental health, absenteeism, discipline, and engagement?*
- *How are districts addressing the impact of the pandemic on teachers and staff, including staffing shortages, stress, overwork, and public perception?*

- *Remediation, accelerating learning, school improvement – what are the differences and similarities?*
- *What are the current trends for stimulus funding – immediate needs vs. long-term goals?*
- *How do districts measure and use leading and lagging success and accountability indicators?*
- *Accountability to whom and for what? Are there more context-sensitive and/or comprehensive ways to approach accountability?*

Faculty:

- Michael Hinojosa, former Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District, Texas
- Nate Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, Accelerated Improvement Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky
- Reid Wodicka, Deputy Superintendent for Operations and Strategic Planning, Lynchburg Public Schools, Virginia
- Corey Miklus, Superintendent, Seaford Public Schools, Delaware
- Jeffrey Lawson, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, Maryland

11:45 – 1:00 PM

Working Lunch

During lunch, participants will be seated with faculty and given the opportunity to continue discussion from the morning’s session.

1:00 – 2:15 PM

[Session VI: Looking Ahead: Is There a “New Normal”?](#)

This session will seek to take stock of the lessons learned from the pandemic and whether they point to a new future state that is markedly different or just incrementally changed.

Guiding Questions:

- *What is the future of accountability? What innovations are coming out of the pandemic experience?*
- *How can accountability become an engine for change and improvement in the endemic era?*
- *The pre-pandemic status quo left too many students behind – how do we move forward in new ways under current policy structures?*
- *Are there lessons learned from the COVID era that can apply to a future reauthorization of ESEA?*
- *Do the structures, uses, amounts of stimulus funding hold implications for the future of federal education funding?*

Faculty:

- Margie Vandeven, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Shirley Vargas, Senior Administrator, Office of Coordinated School and District Support, Nebraska Department of Education
- Kristen Danusis, Director, Office of School & District Improvement, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Michael Hinojosa, former Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District, Texas
- Nate Meyer, Assistant Superintendent, Accelerated Improvement Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky
- Tonya Strozier, Principal, Holladay Elementary School, Tucson, Arizona
- Sabrina Dublin, Principal, Marquand-Zion High School, Marquand, Missouri

2:15 – 2:30 PM

Break

- 2:30 – 2:45 PM** **Complete Retreat Evaluation**
- 2:45 – 3:15 PM** **Final Observations from Expert Faculty**
- Faculty will share their major takeaways from the convening, including what they have learned from the other faculty and participants.
- 3:15 – 3:30 PM** **Taking Stock: Staff Reflections and Feedback to Guide Next Steps for the Network**
- Participants will share their major takeaways from the convening and note what additional support the Aspen Institute can provide in future convenings. Aspen staff will note high level takeaways and themes from the convening, as well as next steps for the Network.
- 3:30 PM** **Adjourn**