

About Our Presenters

Pasi Sahlberg, Ph.D.

Director General
Ministry of Education Culture, Finland

Pasi Sahlberg has experience in classroom teaching, training teachers and leaders, coaching schools to change, and advising education policy makers around the world. He is an international speaker and writer who has given more than 250 keynote speeches and published over 100 articles, chapters, and books on educational change.

Dr. Sahlberg has lived and worked in England (King's College), the United States (World Bank in Washington D.C.) and Italy (European Training Foundation in Torino), and worked in 50 countries all around the world. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Jyväskylä (Finland) in 1996.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) and IASCE (International Association for the Study of Cooperation in Education) in the U.S., and Adjunct Professor at the University of Helsinki and the University of Oulu.

His book "Finnish Lessons: What can the world learn from educational change in Finland?" (2011) won the 2013 Grawemeyer Award; and he received the Upton Sinclair Award in 2011.

Pasi Sahlberg, born October 26, 1959, in Oulu, Finland, is a Finnish citizen. He received Master of Science (Mathematics) in 1984 from University of Turku and Ph.D. from the University of Jyväskylä in 1996. He received a Teacher's Diploma from the University of Helsinki in 1986.

Dr. Sahlberg has a long track record in education and development. His teaching career started in Teacher Training School and Department of Teacher Education at the University of Helsinki in 1986. He then moved to the Ministry of Education (National Board of Education) in 1991 to serve as Senior Advisor in science education, Head of the School Improvement Unit, and later as Counselor to the Deputy Director General on education policy development and education reform. In 2000 he was invited to take the leadership of the Centre for School Development in the University of Helsinki.

From the beginning of 2003, he worked as Senior Education Specialist in the World Bank in Washington, D.C. He was responsible for education projects and analytical work in Europe and Central Asia. Since June 2007 he worked with the European Training Foundation, in Torino, Italy, as Lead Education Specialist producing intellectual services to governments, schools and leaders to improve their education policies and practices.

He has worked with governments and educators in Europe, Central Asia, North America, Africa and Asia-Pacific region to help them in improving education policies and implementing system-wide education reforms.

In his current job as Director General of CIMO (National Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation) in the Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr. Sahlberg works with the Finnish Government to promote internationalization and tolerance, creativity and global ethics in Finnish society through mobility and institutional cooperation in education, culture, youth and sport.

Dr. Sahlberg has been an active figure in promoting educational changes in Finland and beyond. He has published several books, such as *Cooperative Learning Handbook* (with Shlomo Sharan in 2002) and *Small Group Learning in Mathematics* (with John Berry in 2003), and more than one hundred articles in journals, research periodicals and magazines around the world. Most recent ones include “The Fourth Way of Finland” (2011), “Rethinking Accountability in a Knowledge Society” (2010), “Creativity and innovation through lifelong learning” (2009), “Should ‘failing’ students repeat the grade?” (2008); “Education Policies for Raising Student Learning: The Finnish Approach” (2007) and “Education Reform for Raising Economic Competitiveness” (2006). He sits on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Studies of Cooperation in Education (IASCE) and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and at the Editorial Board member of the *Journal of Educational Change*.

His professional interests are in educational change in a knowledge society, education for economic competitiveness, and global education policy development. He has been advisor to the Ministers of Education and provided high-level strategic advice to policy makers, prepared and reviewed education reforms and institutions, analyzed education reforms and spoke to the public and professionals about education and training around the world. He enjoys reading, writing, music, basketball, and golf.

Dr. Ee-Ling Low

Office of Teacher Education
National Institute of Education, Singapore

Dr. Ee-Ling Low is the Associate Dean of Programme and Student Development at the Office of Teacher Education at the National Institute of Education, Singapore, and concurrently an Associate Professor of English Language and Literature.

Previously (2004–2009), she was the Sub-Dean for Degree Programmes. From 2008-2009 she served as Chair of the Secretariat of NIE’s Programme Review & Enhancement (PRE) initiative, which culminated in NIE’s Teacher Education Model for the 21st Century (TE21)

and served as a co-chair of the Programmes Core Team for the TE21 implementation steering group.

Dr. Low obtained her Ph.D. in Linguistics (Acoustic Phonetics) from the University of Cambridge, UK under the Nanyang Technological University–National Institute of Education Overseas Graduate Scholarship. In 2008, she won the Fulbright Advanced Research Scholarship, which she spent at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. She was a visiting professor at the Department of Linguistics at Chulalongkorn University in June 2008. She also is a Centre Fellow for the Research Centre for Language Education and Acquisition in Multilingual Societies appointed by the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIE) and serves as the external BA programme Examiner for their joint BA programme in Applied Linguistics with China.

Dr. Low has served as a consultant to undergraduate programme development for the Emirates College for Advanced Education and been involved in funding requests and project management internationalisation work in the Temasek Foundation-NIE Educational Leaders Programme for Vietnam, which aims to upgrade the quality of educational leadership in Vietnam.

She has published several books on English Linguistics and Phonetics and many articles and book chapters on speech rhythm, stress and intonation and teacher education, which have appeared in journals like AILA Review, Language & Speech, TESOL Quarterly, English Worldwide, World Englishes, Australian Journal of Teacher Education and the Asia-Pacific Journal of Education.

Dr. Low has been an invited keynote speaker to numerous international conferences and symposia in both World Englishes and Teacher Education, including at the New York Times Conference on “Schools for a Better Tomorrow” held in New York in October 2012 and the Public Symposium on Building and Sustaining a Quality Teaching Workforce co-organised by Asia Society and the World Affairs Council in Seattle in January 2013.

She has served on the editorial board of the Regional Language Centre international journal and the SpringerOpen Access Journal, Multilingual Education. She was appointed by the government to serve on the national committee of the Speak Good English Movement in Singapore from 2006-2012. She has served on the board of the Fulbright Association of Singapore and the United Nations Association of Singapore. From 2008–2010, she served as the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA), a role for which in 2010 she was awarded fellowship of APERA in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her service. She is currently the President of the Singapore Association for Applied Linguistics and President of the St. Joseph’s Convent Alumnae. She is the strand leader of the initial teaching education section of the Teacher Learning strand of the institute’s overall research agenda. In 2012,

she was awarded the Public Administration (Bronze) model by the President of the Republic of Singapore in recognition for her dedication and commitment towards furthering the cause of education in Singapore.

Dan Goldhaber, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Education Data & Research

Dr. Dan Goldhaber is the Director of the Center for Education Data & Research and a Professor in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington Bothell. He is also the co-editor of *Education Finance and Policy*, and a member of the Washington State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Dan previously served as an elected member of the Alexandria City School Board from 1997-2002, and as an Associate Editor of *Economics of Education Review*.

Dan's work focuses on issues of educational productivity and reform at the K-12 level, the broad array of human capital policies that influence the composition, distribution, and quality of teachers in the workforce, and connections between students' K-12 experiences and postsecondary outcomes.

Topics of published work in this area include studies of the stability of value-added measures of teachers, the effects of teacher qualifications and quality on student achievement, and the impact of teacher pay structure and licensure on the teacher labor market. Previous work has covered topics such as the relative efficiency of public and private schools, and the effects of accountability systems and market competition on K-12 schooling.

Dan's research has been regularly published in leading peer-reviewed economic and education journals such as: *American Economic Review*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Policy and Management*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Education Finance and Policy*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, and *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. The findings from these articles have been covered in more widely accessible media outlets such as National Public Radio, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Education Week*.

Dr. Goldhaber holds degrees from the University of Vermont (BA, Economics) and Cornell University (MS and Ph.D., Labor Economics).

Ed Graff

Superintendent, Anchorage School District

Ed Graff was appointed superintendent of the Anchorage School District on March 18, 2013. Mr. Graff began his teaching career in 1991 at Gladys Wood Elementary School. Nine years later, he became an elementary school principal in the district. In 2008, Mr. Graff was named executive director of Elementary Education. The following year, he became the Chief Academic Officer, a position formerly referred to as assistant superintendent for instruction.

Mr. Graff is dedicated to doing what is best for all students collectively while still meeting the needs of each individual. He is focused on Destination 2020, the district's strategic plan. Mr. Graff had a key role in the selection and implementation of many of the initiatives in the plan, including Response to Instruction, Common Core State Standards, and the new K-8 math curriculum. He places high value in staff professional learning opportunities to ensure they are timely and right for all individuals—whether it's for a new teacher, an experienced teacher or a new material that is being implemented in the classroom.

Mr. Graff believes commitment and focused efforts will ensure that the district is supporting students first, maintaining a focus in the classroom, and working hard to create high expectations for everyone.

In 2013 he received the Mary Utne O'Brien Award for Excellence in Expanding the Evidence-Based Practice of Social and Emotional Learning. The award is the highest level award offered by CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning).

A graduate in Elementary Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Mr. Graff holds a Master's Degree in Education Administration from University of Southern Mississippi. He has post-masters coursework in curriculum, educational leadership and instruction. Mr. Graff has served on several boards and professional organizations, including Junior Achievement, School Business Partnerships, and Alaska Learning Network.

Originally from Minnesota, he has lived in several Alaska towns and villages, including Hooper Bay and Savoonga. He is married to Michelle Prince, an ASD elementary school principal. They have one son.