

Reading Reform in NYC: Teaching Kids, Empowering Parents, Supporting Teachers

(Webinar, April 16, 2024)

PANELISTS



Natasha Quiroga



Jeff Smink



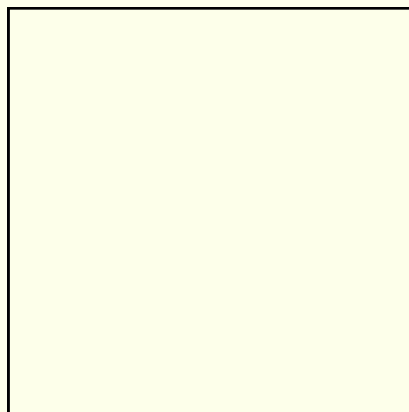
Novella Bailey



Pilar Ramos



Teresa Ranieri



Yana Semiglazova



Tabatha Garcia



MODERATOR

Natasha Quiroga

Director of Education Policy and InsideSchools, The New School's Center for New York City Affairs

Natasha Quiroga is Director of Education Policy and InsideSchools at the New School's Center for New York City Affairs. She brings almost 20 years of experience advocating for children, youth, and families to these roles. Most recently, she was Director of the Parental Readiness and Empowerment Program and Senior Counsel in the Educational Opportunities Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, where she developed and successfully expanded national initiatives fostering parental leadership in education. Over the course of more than 10 years' leadership at the Lawyers' Committee, she provided extensive and expert analysis for parents, educators, and legislators on issues impacting the education of students of color, immigrant children, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities. Natasha also served as the first full-time Executive Director of Escuela Bolivia (now Educación Para Nuestro Futuro) in Northern Virginia, and advised state and local education agencies on compliance with federal education laws at an education law firm.



SPEAKER 1

Jeff Smink

Education Trust New York,
Deputy Director

Jeff Smink, as Deputy Director at The Education Trust–New York, shapes strategic initiatives and policy advocacy, notably focusing on early literacy efforts. With an extensive background spanning over two decades in education policy across national, state, and local levels, Jeff brings a wealth of experience in addressing educational issues from infancy to workforce readiness. Previously, he held leadership roles at organizations such as the National Summer Learning Association and the National Center on Time and Learning.

Based in his hometown of Rochester, Jeff is deeply involved in community initiatives, contributing to boards like the Democrat and Chronicle Board of Contributors and the Mayor’s Early Learning Council. His educational journey includes an Ed.M from Harvard University and a B.A. with teaching certification from Allegheny College, reflecting his commitment to advancing education at various levels.



SPEAKER 2

Novella Bailey

District 3 Manhattan,
Special Projects & Initiatives

Novella Bailey is a dedicated education professional currently serving as the Special Projects and Initiatives Lead at Community School District 3 in New York City. Having attended NYC public schools from kindergarten through 8th grade and later serving as both a teacher and principal in Community School District 3, Novella has deep roots in New York City Public Schools.

Novella brings a unique and well-rounded perspective to literacy initiatives. Her firsthand experiences as a student and 23 years of service as an educator have shaped her commitment to creating engaging and impactful learning programs that resonate with diverse learners.





SPEAKER 3

Pilar Ramos

Academy of Arts and Letters,
Principal

Pilar Ramos is Principal of Arts & Letters 305 United. She started her career in public education in the DOE nearly two decades ago as a middle school humanities teacher in Brooklyn and the Bronx. After ten years of teaching literacy, Pilar transitioned to the central office where she worked with the Middle School Quality Initiative, a DOE program working with over 100 middle schools across NYC to improve literacy outcomes for students in grades 6-8. She grew up and still lives in district 13 and went to NYC Public Schools for most of her schooling. Witnessing inequities in her own public-school experience brought her to a career in education. Pilar believes that Public Education has the power and potential to change our country.



SPEAKER 4

Teresa Ranieri

PS 443, The Family School,
School Based Literacy Coach

Teresa Ranieri is a dedicated educator with six years of experience, currently serving as a Literacy Coach within the New York City Department of Education. She has taught across various grade levels, from kindergarten to fifth grade, accumulating an impressive 27 years of service in the city's education system. In her current role as a Literacy Coach, Teresa collaborates with teachers to ensure equitable education and empowers students through brain-based literacy instruction. With a background in Early Childhood Education and a deep commitment to fostering a love for learning, Teresa is passionate about her students' growth. She has completed the Associate Level Orton-Gillingham training, LETRS training, The Writing Revolution training, is an Acadience Mentor, and has her SUNY micro-credentials in the Science of Reading. For her, literacy is a social justice issue.

SPEAKER 5

Yana Semiglazova

PS 303Q Academy for Excellence
through the Arts, Queens parent

Bio coming up soon!





SPEAKER 6

Tabatha Garcia

La Fuerza de Familias Latinas,
Parent Workshop Facilitator

Tabatha Garcia, a bilingual American with Ecuadorian roots, leads her household in Staten Island, New York, and is deeply involved in educational initiatives. Her journey with Literacy Partners began in 2020, inspired by workshops that emphasized parental involvement in children's learning. She now shares her passion by facilitating workshops, fostering meaningful connections between parents and children through storytelling and interactive learning.

Tabatha's dedication extends to advocating for the Science of Reading in NYC schools, aiming to impact numerous families positively. She treasures these moments not just as a facilitator but as a fellow parent, finding joy in sharing beloved stories like "Caps for Sale" with her daughters and creating lasting bonds with other families.