

Using MEPS 2.0 to Consistently Measure School-Level Student Poverty Rates over Time

Speaker Biographies

Kristin Blagg is a principal research associate in the Work, Education, and Labor Division at the Urban Institute. Her research spans K–12 and higher education, with a focus on funding and finance policy. In higher education, Blagg has studied student loans, federal and state grant aid, student basic needs, and measurement of return on investment. In K–12 education, she has led work on measuring student economic disadvantage, funding formulas, and projecting the long-run returns on educational investments. Blagg holds a BA in government from Harvard University, an MEd from Hunter College, an MPP from Georgetown University, and a PhD in public policy and public administration from George Washington University.

Emily Gutierrez is a senior research associate in the Work, Education, and Labor Division at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on K–12 education policies that aim to mitigate educational inequities, disparities, and external factors that affect student success. She is also part of the inaugural William and Gail Gorham Scholar/Analyst Program and a Gorham Scholar/Analyst, class of 2024. Gutierrez spent time as a math teacher in Fort Worth, Texas. She received her BBA in economics, Spanish, and public administration and her MS in economics from Baylor University, and she holds a PhD in public administration from Syracuse University.