The mission of the USC Rossier Center on Education Policy, Equity and Governance (CEPEG) is to reduce opportunity gaps for California students, with an emphasis on greater Los Angeles, by working to ensure that new policies and practices are guided by evidence and careful analysis. We believe that locally relevant research is necessary to help state and district leaders, advocates, media and parent and community organizations make data-driven decisions that will improve outcomes for Southern California students.

40% of all California public school students attend schools where USC alumni are sitting superintendents.

**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the USC Rossier Center on Education Policy, Equity and Governance (CEPEG) is to reduce opportunity gaps for California students, with an emphasis on greater Los Angeles, by working to ensure that new policies and practices are guided by evidence and careful analysis. We believe that locally relevant research is necessary to help state and district leaders, advocates, media and parent and community organizations make data-driven decisions that will improve outcomes for Southern California students.

**OUR WORK**

» **CONDUCT RESEARCH WITH CONSEQUENCE**
CEPEG works with a wide variety of partners to investigate pressing problems and to evaluate which policies and practices are most effective and why. Center faculty work closely with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the CORE Districts and Sacramento policymakers, in part through their close affiliation with Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE). Importantly, the Center’s faculty conduct mixed methods research, leading to more relevant and rigorous analysis.

» **MAKE RESEARCH ACCESSIBLE TO POLICYMAKERS, PRACTITIONERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**
In order for true progress to be made, all stakeholders need timely access to relevant data and analysis. By leveraging technology and organizing public forums, we build new intellectual and political pathways for good research to lead to better policy.

» **TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**
Through our strong presence as a training ground for California education leaders and researchers, we leverage Center findings to train the next generation of practitioners and scholars committed to advancing equity through evidence-based policy.

» **RESPOND TO THE FIELD**
CEPEG taps into Rossier’s alumni base, especially USC’s large network of superintendents who oversee 40 percent of all California public school students, to identify, respond to and help solve problems of practice.
WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Dissatisfaction with K–12 public education remains intense, and nowhere more so than in Southern California. In response, a new wave of education policies has emerged. Faced with a multitude of reforms, education leaders need help choosing which policies and practices promise improvement for their students, evaluating the choices they make and sharing what they learn. CEPEG was designed to address these critical needs in the region’s education system and beyond.

OUR CO-DIRECTORS

Associate Professor Patricia Burch studies private sector involvement in the design and implementation of education policy. Burch has over two decades of experience collaborating with large urban school districts and state education agencies to support continuous improvement in education reforms.

Associate Professor Julie A. Marsh is Faculty Director of PACE, and specializes in research on K–12 policy and governance. She has served as a long-term research partner with LAUSD, providing ongoing feedback to district leaders and partners.

Associate Professor Morgan Polikoff researches the implementation and effects of standards and accountability policies. His current work focuses on the adoption and use of curriculum materials by teachers and school districts in California and beyond.

Professor of Clinical Education Darline Robles is Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion and an expert in urban education and program development. She served on President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Robles was a K–12 superintendent for 20 years, including superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

OUR FACULTY AFFILIATES: CEPEG faculty affiliates are scholars and district leaders making an impact in the field. They include: Rudy M. Castruita, Michael Escalante, Cathy Krop, Maria Ott, Lawrence O. Picus, David Quinn and Kathy Stowe.

LEARN MORE
cepeg.usc.edu
Susan McKibben
Administrative Director
(213) 821-4159
smckibbe@rossier.usc.edu