

Contact

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Top Skills

Nonprofits

Program Development

Public Speaking

Publications

Student and Family Engagement:
The Missing Piece of the Education
Reform Puzzle

Making the Most of Federal
Education Research

Joaquin Tamayo

Senior Advisor @ U.S. Department of Education
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Summary

As Senior Advisor & Chief of Staff in the Office of the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Joaquin Tamayo leads and supports strategic initiatives that advance the Biden-Harris Administration's vision for equity and excellence in public education. Joaquin is a proud Latino and LGBTQ+ member of the federal team, and a former Obama Administration appointee who served on the My Brother's Keeper Federal Taskforce.

With 25 years of experience in education policy and practice, Joaquin has a proven track record of designing and implementing innovative solutions that leverage the science of learning and development, foster positive school climate and social emotional learning, and catalyze systems transformation. Joaquin co-founded and led the Middle School Kindness Challenge, a national program that improved school culture and student outcomes by teaching and cultivating kindness. He also helped create and manage the Science of Learning and Development Alliance, a high-impact partnership of leading education organizations that disseminated and applied critical knowledge from the learning science to drive equity and improvement. Joaquin is passionate about empowering educators and students, especially those from historically marginalized communities, to reach their full potential and thrive.

Experience

U.S. Department of Education

2 years

Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary

April 2023 - Present (5 months)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Chief Of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary

September 2021 - Present (2 years)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

EducationCounsel LLC

Senior Policy Advisor

July 2018 - September 2021 (3 years 3 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Cultivate, manage, and grow the Science of Learning and Development (SoLD) Alliance, a high-impact national partnership of leading education organizations committed to equity for all young people and elevating and disseminating critical knowledge from the science of learning and development to catalyze transformation within and among education systems. The SoLD Alliance convenes, empowers, and supports education field and systems leaders to act boldly and infuse education policy and practice with scientific knowledge that can ensure equitable outcomes for all young people, particularly those least served by current systems.

Stand for Children

National Director

March 2017 - May 2018 (1 year 3 months)

Washington, DC

Envisioned and cultivated a first-of-its-kind collaboration of nationally-recognized education organizations to launch the Middle School Kindness Challenge (now called Teach Kindness), a research and evidence-based opportunity for any middle school to immediately improve school climate and safety, as well as work to close the school-to-prison pipeline, by significantly reducing suspensions and supporting the intentional teaching and fostering of kindness to all students.

Joaquin Tamayo Consulting

Independent Consultant & Convener

January 2017 - May 2017 (5 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Progressive, visionary education leader, social entrepreneur, convener, and policymaker with a 16-year record of leveraging the best ideas across sectors to create innovative and effective education policies, programs, and organizations. Passionate about and committed to improving children's lives, particularly those who are disadvantaged and disaffected. Known for creative solutions that advance equity, deliver a quality education, and improve the holistic environments in which children learn and grow.

I am available to lead and contribute to projects and events on behalf of youth-serving organizations, particularly work that focuses on improving the systems,

structures, and policies that contribute to positive youth outcomes across the education, health, housing, workforce, and justice sectors.

I am also an experienced and skilled convener of senior leaders, agencies, and organizations across sectors and of national, state-level, and local scope. I understand how to plan and execute events, seminars, and retreats to maximize adult learning and provide expert professional development for leaders within and across sectors.

Areas of expertise include:

- School, school district, state, and federal program and policy development
- Youth and leadership development
- Events, seminars, retreats to advance policy and practice
- Teaching and learning
- Organizational improvement, management, and sustainability
- Cross-sector public administration
- Youth policy, practice, and systems
- Interagency coordination and collaboration
- School and learning environment leadership and design
- Local and national partnerships
- Family and community engagement
- Public and media engagement

U.S. Department of Education

2 years 9 months

Director of Strategic Initiatives

April 2016 - January 2017 (10 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Joaquin Tamayo is Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, he leads a number of strategic initiatives across sectors (education, health, housing, justice) on behalf of the Department to improve equity and access to a high-quality public education by strengthening the conditions for learning, health, and wellness for all students across the country.

Member, My Brother's Keeper Federal Taskforce

May 2014 - January 2017 (2 years 9 months)

Created and direct key projects of President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative (MBK) as a member of the federal MBK taskforce, including the

Administration's cross-sector Every Student, Every Day (ESED) initiative to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism affecting the educational achievement and health of nearly 7 million public school students each year. The ESED initiative produced a comprehensive package of supports for states, local communities, schools, and cross-sector organizations across the country to address the national chronic absenteeism crisis, including:

- Every Student, Every Day Community Toolkit
- Every Student, Every Day Virtual National Summits (Nov. 2015 & Dec. 2016)
- My Brother's Keeper Success Mentors National Initiatives (located in 30 large school districts across the country)
- Every Student, Every Day National Conference (June 2016, Washington, DC)
- Absences Add Up! National Media Campaign (U.S Dept. of Education, Ad Council, Mott Foundation)

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

May 2014 - March 2016 (1 year 11 months)

Special Assistant for Special Populations in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education responsible for executive branch leadership to improve conditions for learning for 50 million preK-12th grade students. Launched strategic, cross-sector and interagency initiatives, programs, and federal technical assistance centers to tackle large, national challenges in public education, healthcare, housing, and juvenile justice. Worked to ensure the right of all students to attend safe, supportive, well-resourced schools that improved their academic achievement as well as their health and wellness.

The Aspen Institute

Assistant Director, Education & Society Program

July 2010 - May 2014 (3 years 11 months)

Leveraged 10 years of experience in schools to provide expert policy leadership to national education leaders. Designed and implemented highly-effective professional development programs to promote innovative systems-thinking among urban public school superintendents and federal policymakers.

Urban Assembly Academy of Government and Law

Founding Principal

July 2005 - June 2009 (4 years)

Education

Princeton University

MPA, Domestic Policy Studies · (2002 - 2004)

Columbia University

BA, Political Science · (1994 - 1998)