

**The Law and Policy of Universal Preschool
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Panelist Bio

Sara D. Watson



Sara Watson is a senior officer in the State Policy Initiatives division of The Pew Charitable Trusts, where she directs the Trusts' national initiative to advance high quality early education for all 3 and 4 year olds, with an annual budget of approximately \$12 million per year. She directs the Partnership for America's Economic Success: Investing in Children, a collaboration of 11 donors created to make investments in young children the nation's top economic priority. She is also an advisor to Trusts projects addressing economic mobility as well as state preparedness for avian influenza. Before joining the Trusts, she was the director of the Better Results Group for The Finance Project and the manager of the Improved Outcomes Project for the Center for the Study of Social Policy in Washington, D.C., where she worked with states and localities across the country to improve human services policy. She staffed Washington State's Family Policy Council in Olympia, Washington, supporting a state-wide network of community collaboratives. Dr. Watson has published dozens of articles and monographs on family and children's services reform and disability policy. She is a board member of Maryland Advocates for Children and Youth, was a founding board member of Virginia's Action Alliance for Children and Youth and was selected as an emerging leader by the Children's Defense Fund. She has a B.A. (magna cum laude) from Carleton College, and Master of Public Policy and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.