

Virginia Gentles
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Virginia Gentles is the director of the Education Freedom and Parental Rights Initiative at the Defense of Freedom Institute for Policy Studies (DFI). She is a long-time school choice advocate and former state and federal education policy leader. She is regularly called on to provide testimony before Congress and provide in-depth analysis of the issues facing American education for Newsweek, National Journal, Fox News, and other major media outlets.

Gentles is also a senior fellow with Independent Women's Forum, a member of the University of Mary Washington Board of Visitors, and an advisor to the Education Reformers Academy and EdReform Virginia. Gentles served as a senior political appointee in the U.S. Department of Education under President George W. Bush. She led the Florida Department of Education's Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, managing the state's school choice programs. While living in Canada, she worked for the Fraser Institute and the Ontario Ministry of Education. Gentles began her career on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant and House Budget Committee analyst.

A Florida native, Gentles is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She lives in Virginia with her two daughters.