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Dr. Hess started his career as a high school social studies teacher and has since taught at the University of Virginia, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, Rice University, and Georgetown University. His books include [Spinning Wheels: The Politics of Urban School Reform](#) (1998), [Common Sense School Reform](#) (2004), [Education Unbound: The Promise and Practice of Greenfield Schooling](#) (2010), [Cage-Busting Leadership](#) (2013), [Letters to a Young Education Reformer](#) (2017), [A Search for Common Ground: Conversations About the Toughest Questions in K–12 Education](#) (2021), and [The Great School Rethink](#) (2023). He is an executive editor of *Education Next*, a contributing editor to *National Review*, and the founder and chair of AEI's Conservative Education Reform Network. Dr. Hess's work can be found in scholarly journals, including *American Politics Research* and *Social Science Quarterly*, and popular outlets such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*.

Dr. Hess holds a PhD in politics and an MEd in teaching and curriculum from Harvard University.