

**Denise Forte** (pronounced “fort”) is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national non-profit research and advocacy organization. Denise is a fierce advocate for employing evidence-based strategies to create high achieving learning environments that turn barriers and gaps into bridges and pipelines for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. Denise joined Ed Trust in 2019 as senior vice president for Partnerships and Engagement, guiding the organization’s expansion by developing robust working relationships with legislators, education advocates, traditional and emerging civil rights groups, parents, students, and the business community. Prior to Ed Trust, Denise was a senior fellow and director of public affairs for The Century Foundation, and she also has served as the Vice President for Policy Leadership at Leadership for Educational Equity. Her lifetime of public service includes 20 years in senior congressional staff roles on Capitol Hill, most recently as the staff director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, providing strategic advice and counsel to Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA.) She also served as Education Policy Director for former Chairman George Miller (D-CA). Finally, Denise also served in the Obama administration as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development in the Department of Education. A mom of two school-aged boys, Denise understands the importance of teacher diversity, resource equity, and parent engagement. She holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Duke University, and an M.A. in Women’s Studies from the George Washington University. She lives with her family in Washington, D.C.