

Lisa Maria Grillo, Ed.D., currently serves as assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the Howard University School of Education. Her research is currently focused on the experiences of Black and Latina women who lead in educational settings. Prior to this role, Grillo successfully led district and school level initiatives to improve student outcomes for diverse student populations in large urban and suburban school districts. As principal in the District of Columbia Public Schools, she led her school community in earning Autonomous School Status, an award given to a select cohort of high-performing schools that allows for greater school-based autonomy in the areas of budgeting, instructional programming, and professional development.

As assistant superintendent for special education services in the Wake County Public School System in North Carolina, Grillo led a district-wide strategic planning effort to significantly improve the quality of special education services and programs for 20 thousand students with disabilities. In both of her roles as chief human resources officer in Baltimore County Public Schools and Baltimore City Public Schools, she led the design and implementation of a contemporary human capital effectiveness framework which incorporated organizational and professional development for district staff, with special emphasis on principals and teachers. In her tenure-track faculty position at the University of New Mexico, Grillo conducted research in the areas of special education leadership and culturally responsive leadership.

Grillo earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Teaching degrees from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. She earned her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study and Doctor of Education degree from Howard University in Washington, DC. She is the mother of one son and currently lives in Bowie, Maryland.