



JerseyCAN Education Advocacy Fellowships

JerseyCAN's Education Advocacy Fellowships are paid opportunities for New Jersey teachers and parents (Fellows) to learn about and engage in education policy and advocacy work in New Jersey.

The Program

JerseyCAN is building a vibrant advocacy community for NJ teachers and parents through its Education Advocacy Fellowships.

JerseyCAN's NJ Teacher Leader Policy Fellowship and Parent Champions for Strong Schools Fellowship provide NJ teacher and parent Fellows with opportunities to participate in year-long fellowships to study the NJ education policy landscape, hone their advocacy skills, and achieve collective and individual advocacy goals.

In addition to engaging in high-quality professional learning and networking opportunities, each Fellow will receive a \$3,000 stipend for their commitment to this work.

What to Expect

Convenings take place throughout the year both virtually and in-person in Central NJ. Content is rich in current research, expert discussions, and exploratory activities designed to expand participants' knowledge and understanding of the current NJ education policy landscape.

Fellows are also supported in taking action to advocate at the state or local level. Throughout the course of these fellowships, participants will work with fellow teachers and parents, as well as across fellowships, as they:

- Conduct research within a current key priority area* and identify a problem of practice to address within their selected area;
- Work with other parent and teacher fellows to learn the advocacy process and establish their own advocacy goals;
- Achieve a short-term advocacy milestone; and
- Increase their professional network and opportunities to advocate.

Please note that attendance is an integral part of the fellowship, so only those candidates with full availability to attend all virtual meetings and in-person convenings should apply.

See JerseyCAN's Education Advocacy Fellowships [webpage](#) for a complete list of convening dates and times.

*This year's key priority areas are:

- Excellent Teaching for Every Student
- Pathways to Postsecondary Success
- Expanding Student Opportunity



Our Why

We are passionate about this work because we believe that:

1. Teachers and parents are critical stakeholders in advising and influencing the mission and vision of education organizations.
2. Teachers and parents must be informed and knowledgeable about education systems and policies in order to actively and effectively engage in advocacy to benefit student outcomes.
3. Teacher leadership, or the ability for teachers to influence colleagues and the profession while maintaining classroom responsibilities, will keep great teachers in classrooms where they can have the biggest impact on student outcomes. Teacher leadership also allows practicing teachers to meaningfully contribute to the development and implementation of education policy.
4. Robust parent advocacy, or families' efforts to promote healthy education policies and practices, benefit children throughout the state. Parents and families are the number one advocates for our young people; by giving them influence and input around educational decisions, educators and communities can join together in advocating for the best possible outcomes for our students.

To Apply

To apply for this Fellowship, participants must:

- Be open to [JerseyCAN's mission and vision](#);
- Be passionate about leading state or local advocacy work in one or more of this year's key priority areas;
 - **Excellent Teaching for Every Student:** Advancing evidence-based literacy and mathematics instruction for all students, elevating classroom practice through high-quality educator preparation, professional learning, instructional leadership, and coaching, and developing policy solutions that ensure every student experiences excellent teaching every day.
 - **Pathways to Postsecondary Success:** Expanding college and career pathways through early college credit, career and technical education, apprenticeships, work-based learning, and other innovative experiences that equip students with the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed for success beyond high school.
 - **Expanding Student Opportunity:** Ensuring every student has the support and connections needed to thrive by advancing academic support opportunities, student engagement, and family partnerships while championing policies that remove obstacles to success and improve outcomes for all learners.
- Have a minimum of two years of experience teaching in New Jersey's schools AND/OR be a parent to a New Jersey student; and
- Commit to attending all meetings and convenings and completing any associated readings or activities for the convenings.

If you meet all of these qualifications and are a New Jersey student's teacher or parent who is interested in learning about and engaging in policy and advocacy, visit JerseyCAN's Advocacy Fellowships [webpage](#) for details on how to apply.

About JerseyCAN

[JerseyCAN](#) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for high-quality educational opportunities for all New Jersey students, regardless of their address. JerseyCAN works in partnership with education leaders, parents, students and other stakeholders from across the state to remove policy barriers and create new proactive policy measures. JerseyCAN has secured key policy wins that have advanced its mission including more equitable school funding, growth in the number of high-quality new schools in our state—particularly in Newark and Camden—and high standards and aligned assessments. Part of JerseyCAN's strength as a leader and convener in the education landscape is because of the leadership of our 11-member advisory board; since its inception in 2013, the JerseyCAN board has been co-chaired by former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean and Ann Borowiec, former CEO, J.P. Morgan Private Banking.

For more information, contact:
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