



# JerseyCAN's Parent Training and Fellowship Programs: Empowering Parents for Strong Schools

## Our Impactful Journey to Empower Parent Advocates

### Parent Training Program: Parent Champions for Strong Schools

In response to the educational challenges posed by the pandemic, JerseyCAN initiated the Parent Champions for Strong Schools program. This comprehensive initiative empowers parents to advocate effectively for their children's education. Through our free virtual parent training program, parents receive vital information and tools to drive positive change at the local and state levels.

#### Program Highlights

- **Diverse and Engaged Participants:** Since its launch in July 2022, our virtual parent training program has seen strong participation and engagement, with over 20 parents attending each session. Our diverse group of parents from across urban and suburban areas enriches the program's perspectives.
- **Knowledge and Skill Building:** We've covered a range of essential topics in our training sessions, including sharing personal stories in advocacy, understanding education decision-making, assessing school quality, and advocating for best practices. Our sessions are designed to equip parents with both knowledge and practical tools.
- **Empowering Voices:** Our training has nurtured a core group of parent participants who actively support JerseyCAN's goals. These parent champions attend our webinars, spread awareness through social media, and contribute to local meetings advocating for essential issues like tutoring, data sharing, and after-school programs.
- **Action-Packed Fellowship:** Our parent participants will have priority access when applying for the 2024-25 fellowship cohort.

### Parent Fellowship Program: Next Steps for Transformation

As we transition from our successful training program, we're excited to continue the Parent Fellowship Program. This hybrid virtual/in-person fellowship will run from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, offering a platform for passionate parents to take their advocacy to the next level.

#### Program Overview

- **Application and Selection:** We're opening applications soon for the second cohort of parent fellows. With funding from Overdeck and the Hennessy Foundation, selected fellows will receive a stipend of \$3,000 upon completion. Our goal is to engage 10-15 dedicated parents who will be mentored and trained intensively by the JerseyCAN team.
- **Deliverables and Impact:** Parent fellows will work to produce a minimum of 3 impactful deliverables, such as public testimony, op-eds, and speaking engagements at local school board meetings. Additionally, each fellow will actively engage at least 10 other parents, creating a ripple effect of change.
- **Comprehensive Support:** We're committed to providing robust support to our parent fellows, including specialized training in writing, public speaking, and social media engagement. Our focus is on equipping parents with the skills and knowledge they need to be influential advocates.

### Join the Movement!

JerseyCAN's Parent Training and Fellowship Programs have harnessed the power of parents to drive positive change in education. We invite you to become a part of this transformative journey. Whether you're a concerned parent or an organization interested in partnering with us, reach out to **Samantha Wilkerson** at [samantha.wilkerson@jerseycan.org](mailto:samantha.wilkerson@jerseycan.org) for more information.

*Empower parents. Transform education.  
Together, we can create strong schools for our children's future.*