

The Program

The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), a foundational program of the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), is a nationally recognized fellowship program that develops a diverse and collaborative community of strategic leaders for effective public policy. Since 1964, EPFP has been a vehicle for developing a deep understanding of policy issues from diverse perspectives, building leadership skills, and connecting to a lifelong, collaborative network of high-impact leaders. EPFP is the longest running national fellowship of its kind.

At a time when there are so many different viewpoints about what it takes to educate our children, experiences like EPFP are more important than ever. EPFP enables fellows to broaden their understanding of education issues through cross-sector and cross-system learning.

EPFP is a premier program that develops cross-boundary leaders. What makes the fellowship unique is its intentional focus on three pillars—policy, leadership and networking—an approach that invites leaders within and across systems and sectors to hear and learn from each other and experts in the field:

- **Policy** — fellows learn about specific policy issues; policymaking and implementation processes; the interface of local, state and national policies; and the practices effective leaders use to function in the policy environment.
- **Leadership** — fellows develop familiarity with different types of leadership, become aware of their potential as leaders and learn from interactions with proven leaders.
- **Networking** — fellows learn to establish action-oriented and mutually beneficial relationships with colleagues, expand their range of strategies for developing and using power and influence, and build and sustain a larger and more diverse range of professional resources and contacts.

We know that there is a great need for spaces where people in different roles, in different organizations and of different persuasions can explore challenging education issues together. We also know that individuals “in the trenches” need opportunities to develop their leadership capacities. EPFP is the vehicle to meet that need.

*To us, equity is
about creating
more opportunities
for success
in education
and workforce
development for
children, youth,
adults and families
in communities
where opportunity
is lacking.*

DR. JOHAN E. UVIN
PRESIDENT, INSTITUTE FOR
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Alumni Network

The Education Policy Fellowship Program’s mission is to develop a diverse and collaborative community of strategic leaders for effective public policy.

EPFP programs are currently running in 17 states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri/Kansas, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Washington DC.

Evidence from national assessments confirms that EPFP fellows become informed and skilled leaders and a part of a network that provides long-term benefits to their career. There are over 9,100 EPFP alumni in all 50 states. EPFP alumni are former U.S. Cabinet members, state chiefs, teachers and administrators of the year, deans and presidents of higher education institutions, and business and nonprofit leaders. The fellows’ employers benefit by having better informed, more skillful staff who understand policymaking, are prepared to assume greater leadership responsibilities, and are equipped to make dynamic, results-based contributions to education policy and practice.



Center for Educational Leadership

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Visit the **National EPFP** website for more information:
<http://epfp.iel.org>



Education Policy Fellowship Program



The Center for Educational Leadership at Cleveland State University is pleased to host the Ohio site for this 55 year old Washington, D.C. based program sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership.

Institute for Educational Leadership

VISION

A society that uses all of its resources effectively to provide an equal opportunity for all children and youth to learn, develop and become contributing citizens of our democracy.

MISSION

To equip leaders to better prepare children and youth for college, careers and citizenship.

VALUES

- We are a 56-year old diverse national nonprofit that acts as a catalyst and capacity builder at the intersection of education and workforce development to effectively provide equal opportunity for all children and youth.
- We are an organization that values equity, inclusion, cross-sector collaboration and impact.
- We identify and implement high-quality innovation and leadership development at scale, where significant educational, economic and social challenges or gaps exist.
- IEL has developed, trained and supported thousands of leaders across its vast networks.
- IEL has leadership competences, a diverse and multi-generational team; demonstrated leadership capacity and professional development and support-that reflects our strengths and the foundation on which we will build the next five years.

GOALS

- To build and support a cadre of diverse leaders who can achieve better results for children and youth.
- To strengthen the capacity of education and related systems to serve children and youth.
- To inform the development and implementation of policies to improve the lives of children and youth.

The Fellowship

TRANSFORM. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

EPFP is a 10-month professional development program for emerging leaders in education and related fields sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) in Washington, DC. Participants in EPFP hold full-time positions in diverse organizations at the local, state and national levels. Fellows are supported by their employing agencies and remain in their full-time positions and use their work environments as the context for examining important leadership and policy issues in their states and at the national level. Through EPFP, employers are rewarded with better informed and more skillful employees. In addition, the critical mass of EPFP alumni in almost every state constitutes a strong network for reform.

As part of the EPFP experience, most fellows start in the early fall with a welcome retreat and a regional forum (Gettysburg/Army War College Strategic Leadership Forum, Civil Rights Bus Tour, or the Rural Education Bus Tour), spending the winter in their state capitols learning about the policy-making process. By spring, fellows gather for a four-day Washington Policy Seminar in Washington, DC, to connect what they have learned on the local, state and regional levels to the national and federal scene.

A real-world problem solving policy project caps the EPFP experience. Recent fellow-driven topics included: food insecurity in college, segregation of public schools, whole child education, dropout prevention and supporting transgender students. Throughout the experience, fellows learn from and with each other about pressing education and public policy issues, reflecting on their leadership, and learning how to mobilize networks for change, building trusting and lasting relationships within their cohorts along the way.

A study of EPFP confirmed that the Fellowship benefits individuals, their employing organizations and states by:

- Increasing fellows' knowledge base and refining their leadership skills;
- Creating an enduring impact on fellow's work efficacy and careers by developing their human capital and creating social capital;
- Enhancing employees' ability to make research-based contributions to policy and practice;
- Expanding the use of professional networks for gaining access to people and resources previously unknown or unavailable to an organization;
- Developing over time a larger, savvier systemic leadership capacity in a state.



Application and Selection

EPFP INVITES YOU TO APPLY IF YOU HAVE

- a commitment to personal and professional development on behalf of children and youth;
- a track record for making things happen—inside and across agencies/organizations
- substantive work experiences;
- a bachelor's degree or equivalent;
- a full-time professional position;
- the endorsement and financial support of your employing organization or the ability to personally commit financially.

PARTICIPATION

EPFP requires participation in on-site activities that are often, but not always, held during the normal work hours of a Friday. In addition, fellows are expected to attend the two national conferences. Please consider these extra demands on your time in light of your current professional and personal commitments. If you cannot participate fully in EPFP, please do not apply to be a fellow at this time.

TO APPLY

Access application information at:
cehs.csuohio.edu/casal/education-policy-fellowship-program

-OR-

Submit online applications at:
epfp.iel.org/page/OH

CONTACT THE OHIO SITE COORDINATOR

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