

# PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2023-2024 BROCHURE

APPLY AT [EPLC.ORG](https://www.eplc.org)



- Pennsylvania's Premier Education Policy Leadership Program
- For Education, Policy, Community, and Advocacy Leaders
- 700+ graduates: 1999 to 2023
- 2023-2024 Fellowship Program Begins in September

#### Education Policy Fellows:

- develop a broadened understanding of the public policy process and the various aspects of education policy;
- enhance their communication, decision making, and public policy advocacy skills;
- strengthen their capacity for leadership; and
- expand their network of professional colleagues.

## 2023-2024 Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program

The Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program has been sponsored by The Education Policy Leadership Center (EPLC) since 1999, and has more than 700 graduates who are leaders in organizations and programs across the Commonwealth.

Throughout its history, the commitment of EPLC to this Fellowship Program remains the same. The Fellowship Program will continue to be Pennsylvania's premier education policy leadership program for education, community, policy and advocacy leaders!

For the 2023-2024 Program, Fellows will have the opportunity to work with a diverse and talented cohort of peers from across Pennsylvania, while interacting with session leaders and guests who represent a broad scope of experience and perspective — both statewide and nationally. Those who are interested will have the opportunity to earn Act 45/48 credit.

### The 2023-2024 Fellowship Program includes:

- Two online sessions of 3 hours & 30 minutes each to “set the stage” in mid-September
- Sixteen online sessions of two hours & 45 minutes each with two sessions per month October to May
- A Team Policy Project with Fellows developing Public Policy Proposals for May presentation
- In-person two-day Regional Leadership Forum (with Michigan, New York and Ohio) at Gettysburg Battlefield and the Army War College in Carlisle
- In-person Day-in-Washington DC in April with briefings and lawmaker visits
- In-person Day-on-Hill in Harrisburg in May with briefings and lawmaker visits (PA alumni invited)

### The 2023-2024 Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program coordinators are:

Amy Morton - Executive Director of EPLC. Former classroom teacher, intermediate unit executive director, and Executive Deputy Secretary of PA Department of Education

Ron Cowell - Senior Fellow and Founder of EPLC. Former Member of PA House of Representatives, Chair of House Education Committee, and Member of PA State Board of Education

The Education Policy Fellowship Program annually brings together a diverse cohort of professionals from education, human services, government, business, community, and advocacy organizations.

### You are invited to apply if you have:

- A full-time professional position and substantive work experience.
- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
- The endorsement and financial support of your employer or another sponsoring organization.
- A commitment to personal and professional learning.

### What is my commitment if I am accepted as a Fellow?

- Participate in 18 virtual sessions (most are 2 hours and 45 minutes) twice a month from September through May.
- Participate in the two-day Regional Leadership Forum in Gettysburg and Army War College in Carlisle during October.
- Participate in Days-in-the-Capitol in Washington DC (April) and Harrisburg (May).
- Complete independent policy research as a member of a small team to develop a policy proposal.
- Share your experience and knowledge with other Fellows through presentations, discussions with guests and in small group discussions, and in team projects.

### How will my organization benefit from my participation in the Fellowship Program?

Employers gain:

- Access to a professional development program with a proven track record.
- Better informed, more skillful employees.
- Employees who are ready to assume more leadership responsibilities.
- Expanded networks that enhance the organization's ability to access key leaders and decision makers who shape public policy on behalf of children and education.

### What is my employer's commitment in supporting my participation?

- Provide release time for your participation in the Friday morning virtual sessions and for the Regional Leadership Forum and “Day-in-the-Capitol” sessions in Harrisburg and Washington
- Pay a tuition fee of \$2,149 plus travel-related costs for meetings in Gettysburg, Carlisle, Harrisburg and Washington DC. (Tuition includes meals for the Gettysburg, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Washington DC and June graduation events)

### Does participation in the Fellowship Program qualify for Act 45 and Act 48 credits?

- An EPLC agreement with Shippensburg University will enable interested participants in the 2023-2024 Fellowship Program, for a fee of \$250, to earn 90 hours of Act 45 or Act 48 credits.

[APPLY AT EPLC.ORG](https://www.eplc.org)

## Pennsylvania EPFP 2023-2024 Calendar and Agenda

DATE	SEMINAR TOPICS
<b>Session 1</b> Friday, September 15 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Introductions and Setting the Stage for Fellowship Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductions to Program and Fellows</li> <li>K-12 Governance: Intersection of Local-State-Federal Education Policy</li> <li>Politics, Elections, and Public Policy in Pennsylvania</li> <li>Overview of Key Education Policy Issues</li> </ul>
<b>Session 2</b> Friday, September 29 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Making State Education Policy in Pennsylvania</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"State of the Child" in Pennsylvania</li> <li>Roles of State Board of Education and IRRC</li> <li>Roles of School Directors and School Boards</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Leadership Forum, Part 1</b> Thursday, October 5 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Joint activity with Fellows from MI, NY and OH)	<b>Lessons in Leadership on the Gettysburg Battlefield led by Licensed Battlefield Guides</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield with Focus on Strategic Decisions that Directed the Actions of Union and Confederate Armies</li> <li>Visit to Gettysburg Battlefield Visitors Center and Museum</li> <li>Travel to Carlisle, Networking Reception, and PA Evening Gathering</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Leadership Forum, Part 2</b> Friday, October 6 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Activity with other states)	<b>Lessons in Strategic Leadership from U.S. Army War College Faculty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership Lessons Learned from Gettysburg</li> <li>Institutional Leadership and Managing Change</li> <li>Developing Strategic Leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Session 3</b> Friday, October 13 9:00 am - 11:45 a.m.	<b>The Education Policy Making Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Policy Project and Identification of Project Teams</li> <li>Policy Players, Media, and the Process</li> <li>Role of Research in Education Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Session 4</b> Friday, October 27 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Leadership and Ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characteristics of Ethical Leadership</li> <li>Leadership for Diversity, Inclusiveness and Equity</li> <li>PA Ethics Commission and Public Officials Ethics Law</li> <li>Professional Standards and Practices Commission</li> </ul>
<b>Session 5</b> Friday, November 3 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>A Changing Education Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Many Voices of "School Reform"</li> <li>Meeting the Needs of Increasingly Diverse and Mobile Students</li> <li>Trauma-Informed Education - Implications for Policymakers &amp; Educators</li> </ul>
<b>Session 6</b> Friday, November 17 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Conversations with School Leaders</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Policymakers</li> <li>Teachers-of-the-Year</li> <li>Superintendents, Principals, and Board Leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Session 7</b> Friday, December 1 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Ready for Success in College, Career and Citizenship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assuring Access to Affordable and Quality Early Childhood Programs</li> <li>Ready for Success - 21st Century Skills, Counseling and 339 Plans</li> <li>Nurturing an Educated Citizenry and Educated Workforce</li> </ul>
<b>Session 8</b> Friday, December 15 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>STEM and Workforce Development Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projecting Pennsylvania's Workforce Needs</li> <li>STEM and Career and Technical Education</li> </ul>
<b>Session 9</b> Friday, January 5 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>School Choices, Technology &amp; Remote Learning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vouchers, Charters, Home School, and Public School Choices</li> <li>Challenges for Pennsylvania's Rural Districts</li> </ul>
<b>Session 10</b> Friday, January 19 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Recruiting, Preparing and Retaining Teachers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Teacher Shortage - Developing a Teacher Pipeline</li> <li>Supporting and Retaining New Teachers</li> <li>Severe Shortage of Minority Teachers</li> <li>Implications for Education Preparation Programs</li> </ul>
<b>Session 11</b> Friday, February 2 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Postsecondary Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance and Funding of Higher Education in Pennsylvania</li> <li>Postsecondary Access, Affordability, and Quality</li> <li>Higher Education Accountability and Accreditation</li> </ul>
<b>Session 12</b> Friday, February 16 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Community Schools, School and Community Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School and Community Partnerships to Support Students</li> <li>School Partnerships with Art and Cultural Organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Session 13</b> Friday, March 1 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Promoting Civic Dialogue &amp; Civil Discourse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Dialogue/Civil Discourse Principles and Applications</li> <li>Turning Difficult Conversations into Learning Opportunities</li> <li>Understanding and Addressing Peoples' Core Concerns</li> </ul>

After more than 15 years as a chief administrator in school districts and intermediate units, I thought I was very well versed in the ins and outs of legislative practice. Participation in the Education Policy Fellowship Program, though, has broadened my horizons and given me an even better understanding of the interplay between public education and public policy development. The Program is a hands-on, rough-and-tumble experience in which one gets to interact with key players and fellow practitioners. Well worth the investment of time!

Dr. Wayne Killmeyer (EPFP 2020-2021)  
Executive Director,  
Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV

The Fellowship Program has provided a thorough study of education policy and the dynamics of policymaking at the state and federal levels. This experience has invigorated me to advocate for all students to have access to a high-quality, well-rounded, and well-funded public education.

Ronald Sofo, Ph.D. (EPFP 2014-2015)  
CEO/Principal, City Charter Public High School

The Fellowship Program has been instrumental in my development and growth as a school leader. After each session, I genuinely felt that I had gained a deeper insight and understanding of the issues that face public education and higher education, and the plausible solutions needed.

Siobhan Leavy, Ed.D. (EPFP 2016-2017)  
Director of Pupil Services, Coatesville Area School District  
Chester County Intermediate Unit

The Fellowship Program has provided me a deep understanding about how policy affects and influences education. The EPFP content, presenters, and opportunities to network have served as valuable learning experiences and I would encourage others who are interested in the education and policy world connection to participate in this program.

Christine Anne Royce, Ed.D. (EPFP 2014-2015)  
Professor and Chairperson, Department of Teacher Education, Shippensburg University

# Pennsylvania EPFP 2023-2024 Calendar and Agenda

DATE	SEMINAR TOPICS
<b>Session 14</b> Friday, March 15 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Building Partnerships and Public Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaboration and Building Coalitions</li> <li>▪ Effective Advocacy - Making an Impact with Public Officials</li> </ul>
<b>Session 15</b> Friday, April 5 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Pennsylvania Budget and Fiscal Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PA State Budget and Revenues</li> <li>▪ State Fiscal Forecast, Priorities, and Revenue Options</li> </ul>
<b>Day-in-Washington DC</b> Tuesday-Wednesday April 16-17 6:00 p.m. on 4/16 to 4:00 p.m. on 4/17	<b>Pennsylvania EPFP in Washington DC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tuesday Evening Dinner with Guest Speaker</li> <li>▪ Wednesday Breakfast, Policy Briefings, and Lunch</li> <li>▪ Hill Visits Planned and Conducted by Fellows &amp; PA Alumni</li> <li>▪ Optional Capitol Tour</li> </ul>
<b>Session 16</b> Friday, April 26 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>P-12 Education Finance Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ History and Fundamentals of P-12 Finance in PA</li> <li>▪ Governor's Proposed 2024-2025 State Education Budget</li> <li>▪ District Budget Process and Challenges for School District Officials</li> </ul>
<b>Session 17</b> Friday, May 3 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Team Policy Project Presentations - Contributing to the Education Policy Agenda</b>
<b>Session 18</b> Friday, May 10 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Team Policy Project Presentations - Contributing to the Education Policy Agenda</b>
<b>Day-on-the-Hill in Harrisburg</b> Wednesday, May 22 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<b>Day at the State Capitol</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Morning Briefings by Key Education Policy Staff</li> <li>▪ Visits to Policymaker Offices - Present Project Briefings</li> <li>▪ Optional Tour of State Capitol</li> </ul>
<b>Graduation Luncheon</b> Wednesday, June 5 Noon to 2:30 p.m. (Harrisburg-area location TBD)	<b>Graduation and Recognition of Fellows, Sponsors and 2022-2023 Guest Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Graduation &amp; Recognition</li> <li>▪ Presentation of Alumni Awards</li> </ul>

**As opportunities arise, one or more virtual sessions with special guests and/or other state sites may also be scheduled.**

**Fellowship Program Coordinators are:**

Amy Morton - *Executive Director of The Education Policy and Leadership Center, Former classroom teacher, intermediate unit executive director, and Executive Deputy Secretary of PA Department of Education*

Ron Cowell - *Senior Fellow and Founder of EPLC, Former Member of PA House of Representatives, Chair of House Education Committee, and Member of PA State Board of Education*

The EPFP has allowed me to experience more divergent points of view than in my 30 years working in education. I've learned to think globally and understand multiple points of view, which helps to move education policy forward.

Michael D. Pawlik  
(EPFP 2016-2017)

Superintendent, East Lycoming School District

The PA Education Policy Fellowship Program has been the most meaningful professional development opportunity of my career in education. Through the fellowship, I gained a strong understanding of statewide education policy issues and the overall policy making process, key stakeholders, and how to turn a simple idea into an effective policy proposal. I strongly recommend this opportunity to anyone passionate about education and looking for ways to increase their effectiveness in this field!

Ayana Lewis, Esq.  
(EPFP 2018-2019)

Director of Strategic Partnerships, School District of Philadelphia

The EPFP has provided a forum to learn more about the political landscape that, for better or worse, shapes and shifts my role as an education leader. The presentations, networking, project development, and Washington seminar provided many stimulating conversations that challenged perspectives. This was a learning experience that has increased my ability to navigate the ever-changing world of education.

Melanie M. Calender, Ed.D.  
(EPFP 2016-2017)  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Warwick School District

After serving 18 years on my school board, the EPFP was exactly what I needed to motivate and inspire me to continue my strong, active commitment to public education. I also have a much better understanding of policy advocacy. The opportunity to network with so many education leaders is unique. The topics we covered included guest speakers who were all highly qualified in their areas of expertise. The Washington Policy Seminar and the two days in Gettysburg and at the U.S. Army War College were invaluable.

Art Levinowitz, Ph.D.  
(EPFP 2016-2017)

School Board President, School District of Upper Dublin

The experiences throughout the year have been outstanding. I could never have imagined gaining such knowledge that I can use in my career as an educator and even in my personal life. The connections made with the guest speakers and especially with the other Fellows will be treasured for a lifetime. While I have always had an interest in policy and advocacy for the education and wellness of our youth, I have been highly rewarded in learning more and becoming even more motivated to keep learning how it all works.

Sandy Shacklady-White  
(EPFP 2018-2019)

Educational Consultant, PA Training and Technical Assistance Network

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## Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program Past Seminar Speakers

*Participants in the EPFP will have the opportunity to interact with many of Pennsylvania's leaders and education practitioners, who represent a variety of perspectives on education policy issues. Although this is not an all-inclusive list, the following people have been speakers in past EPFP seminars. Titles and organizations listed are the positions the speakers held at the time of their presentations.*

**Colonel Charles D. Allen**, Professor, Department of Command, Leadership and Management, U.S. Army War College

**Senator Ryan Aument**, Member, PA State Senate

**Dr. Joseph Bard**, Executive Director, PA Association of Rural and Small Schools

**Jamie Baxter**, Executive Director, Allies for Children

**Elizabeth Bolden**, Executive Director, PA Commission for Community Colleges

**Judith Bookhamer, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, PA School Counselors Association

**Corinne Brandt**, Regulatory Analyst, Independent Regulatory Review Commission

**Lee Burket**, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Robert Caruso**, Executive Director, State Ethics Commission

**SeriaShia Chatters**, Director of Equity & Inclusivity, State College Area School District

**Michael Churchill**, Attorney, Public Interest Law Center

**Andrea Coleman-Hill**, CEO, Laboratory Charter School

**Donna Cooper**, Secretary of Policy and Planning, Office of the Governor

**Shane F. Crosby**, Executive Director and Legal Counsel, Professional Standards and Practices Commission

**Jen DeBell**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children

**Wil Del Pilar**, Vice-President of Higher Education Policy and Practice, Education Trust

**Mark Despotakis**, Director of Public & Government Affairs, PA Music Educators Association

**Dr. Mark D. DiRocco**, Executive Director, PA Association of School Administrators

**Jamie Dunlap**, Director of Arts in Education, PA Council on the Arts

**Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn**, President, NAACP PA State Conference

**Joni Finney**, Higher Education Researcher and Policy Analysts, University of Pennsylvania

**Daniel W. Fogarty**, Director of Workforce Development & COO, Berks County Workforce Development Board

**Tom Foley**, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of PA

**Jackie Foor**, Executive Director, Consortium for Public Education

**Dr. Edward Fuller**, Director, Penn State Center for Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis

**Thomas Gentzel**, Executive Director, National School Boards Association

**Tiffani Gorman**, Director of Outreach and Strategic Partnerships, A+ Schools

**Beth Hager**, Director, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

**Kimberlee Josephson**, Associate Dean, Breen Center for Graduate Success, Lebanon Valley College

**Julie Kane**, Policy Director, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Jamie Kasper**, Arts Education Partnership, Education Commission of the States

**Wade Killmeyer**, Executive Director, Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV

**Kari King**, President and CEO, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

**Matthew Knittel**, Director, Independent Fiscal Office

**Art Levinowitz**, Past President, PA School Boards Association

**Lara Luetkehans**, Dean, College of Education & Communications, Indiana University of PA

**Dr. G. Terry Madonna**, Senior Fellow in Residence for Political Affairs, Millersville University

**Wayne McCullough**, Executive Director, PA Association of School Business Officials

**Carmen M. Medina**, Chief, Division of Student Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Karen Molchanow**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania State Board of Education

**Sue Mukherjee**, Chief Student Success Officer, Cheyney University of PA

**Tim Mulligan**, President & CEO, Communities in Schools - Eastern PA

**Jan Murphy**, Capitol Bureau Chief, The Patriot-News/PennLive

**Shileste Overton-Morris**, Director, Center for Schools and Communities

**Judd Pittman**, Special STEM Consultant, PA Secretary of Education

**Morgan Plant**, Government Relations Consultant

**John T. Pulver**, Special Project Consultant, Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators

**Rhonda Rabbitt**, Dean, School of Education, Wilkes University

**Pedro A. Rivera**, Secretary of Education, PA Department of Education

**Rebecca Roberts-Malamis**, Deputy Executive Director, Bucks County IU

**Laura Saccente**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Center for Schools and Communities

**Joseph Shaulis**, General Counsel, Allegheny Intermediate Unit

**Aaron Shenck**, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Association of Career Schools

**Mark S. Singel**, President, The Winter Group

**Abby Smith**, President and CEO, Team Pennsylvania

**Dr. Harris Sokoloff**, Director, Center for School Study Councils, University of Pennsylvania

**Michael Soskil**, 2017-2018 PA Teacher of the Year

**Susan Spicka**, Executive Director, Education Voters of Pennsylvania

**Matt Stem**, Executive Director, Intermediate Unit 13

**Rev. Sandra L. Strauss**, Director of Public Advocacy, Pennsylvania Council of Churches

**Kelli Thompson**, Assistant Director of Government Relations, Pennsylvania State Education Association

**Michael Vuckovich**, Superintendent, Indiana Area School District

**Christopher Wakeley**, Executive Director, House Education Committee

**Desha Williams**, Dean, School of Education and Social Work, West Chester University

**Dr. Gerald Zahorchak**, Secretary of Education, PA Department of Education

## *Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program*

The Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program is a nine-month professional development program for education, policy, community and advocacy leaders whose experiences reflect strong leadership abilities and a concern for issues important to children and education.

Participants in the Fellowship Program usually hold full-time positions in diverse organizations at the local, state and national levels.

The Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program has been available since 1999 through The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC).

### **How is the Fellowship Program different from other professional development programs?**

The Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program is supported by a national and state network of resource people and peers who have a track record of accomplishment in research, policy development, and effective practice in education, human services, government, and not-for-profit organizations.

In addition, a unique partnership with the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania provides additional lessons about strategic leadership concepts.

During the Fellowship Program, every Fellow works with a small team to develop and present to peers and state policy leaders a comprehensive public policy proposal.

At the completion of the Fellowship Program, all alumni are included and have opportunities to remain engaged with the Pennsylvania Education Policy Leadership Network – now including more than 700 Pennsylvania education, policy, community, and advocacy leaders.

The Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program is sponsored by:

The Education Policy and Leadership Center  
P.O. Box 25  
Camp Hill, PA 17001  
[www.eplc.org](http://www.eplc.org)

Amy C. Morton, Executive Director  
E-mail: [morton@eplc.org](mailto:morton@eplc.org)

For more information, please call (717) 253-2815 or e-mail Amy Morton at [morton@eplc.org](mailto:morton@eplc.org)



**EPFP Class of 2022-2023**

Please visit the EPLC website, [EPLC.ORG](http://EPLC.ORG), for the full list of more than 700 Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellows, 1999 to 2023.

**APPLY AT [EPLC.ORG](http://EPLC.ORG)**

Enrollment is limited. Please apply early.

**eplc** THE EDUCATION POLICY  
AND LEADERSHIP CENTER