

OVERVIEW



Equipping Business Leaders to Shape Ohio's Education & Workforce Future



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Ohio Excels' Education & Workforce Policy Fellowship is a new, exclusive statewide initiative designed to equip business and workforce leaders with the knowledge and tools to drive meaningful change. Fellows will deepen their understanding of Ohio's education and workforce systems, influence the development of policy and practice, and build strategic partnerships that strengthen outcomes at the local, regional, and state levels. Through a curated series of learning sessions, site visits, and high-impact projects, Fellows will gain actionable insights and forge authentic relationships with peers, learning how to effectively engage and shape policy.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Ohio's future prosperity depends on strong, well-prepared citizens supported by a fully aligned education-to-workforce pipeline. Challenges such as limited access to early learning, increased chronic absenteeism, rising postsecondary costs, and rapidly evolving workforce demands require leadership from the business community.

This Fellowship will help leaders understand and influence education and workforce systems and equip them with the tools to engage meaningfully with policymakers, educators, and employers locally, regionally, and nationally.

To explore the data and context behind this work, please read **Ohio Excels' Reality Check**.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

We welcome nominations and applications from leaders serving in roles such as:

- Business professionals and corporate leaders
- Economic development professionals
- Corporate government affairs representatives
- Business association representatives (e.g., chambers of commerce, rotary clubs, local business engagement groups)
- Employers active on Business Advisory Councils

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to improving education and workforce outcomes, along with curiosity, leadership potential, and a willingness to engage fully in Fellowship activities.

OVERVIEW

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS & TIMING

Launch & Duration

September 2025 through May 2026

Format

Six in-person sessions plus three virtual learning sessions

Kickoff

September 2025 at Ohio Excels HQ and the Ohio Statehouse

Capstone

Fellows will complete a flexible, interest-driven project aligned to their areas of passion and the broader education and workforce landscape

Special Access

Fellows will participate in the **2025 Aim Hire Conference** (October), gaining exposure to leading education and workforce policy experts from Ohio and across the nation. The conference will include engagement with local, state, and national thought leaders.



LEARNING SESSION & EXPERIENCES

Feedback and interests from Fellows will inform the Fellowship curriculum and may include modules and experiences such as:

- Local and State Policy 101 and Statehouse Immersion
- Early Childhood and K-12 Education Policy
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Site Visits
- Postsecondary Access, Financial Aid, and Workforce Strategy
- Data-Driven Decision-Making and Return on Investment (ROI)
- Charter School Tour and School Funding Deep Dive

BENEFITS FOR FELLOWS

- ☐ Build deep expertise in local, regional, and state education and workforce policy
- ☐ Influence meaningful local, regional, and state-level policies and solutions
- ☐ Connect with a dynamic, cross-sector network of peers and future alumni
- ☐ Gain recognition as a statewide leader in education and workforce development
- ☐ Earn an Education & Workforce Policy Fellowship digital badge for LinkedIn



Let's move the needle — *together.*

The Fellowship is co-designed with participants and rooted in adult learning principles. It is not just another training — it is a leadership experience intended to create real, measurable impact.

For more information and to apply, visit:
www.OhioExcels.org/Fellowship

COST & APPLICATION

Tuition: \$1,500 (with limited scholarships available)

Applications Open: May 2025

Selection Announced:
Early August 2025

Application Requirements:

- Short online form (Google Form), including an updated résumé
- Letter of commitment from your employer to confirm organizational support



When students succeed, Ohio Excels.