

## **The Tennessee Educator Fellowship – Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***The Program***

#### **What will I learn in the Tennessee Educator Fellowship?**

Fellows learn about Tennessee education policy and its history, state-level governance, and research findings from experts in those topics.

#### **Why should I apply?**

Educator fellows build their systems-level understanding of policy in Tennessee, both through policy learning and through connecting with other educators across the state and learning about their experiences. Additionally, fellows are empowered to lead their own advocacy projects with support from the SCORE team and TEF alumni.

#### **What is the time commitment of TEF?**

Successful participation in TEF requires a significant time commitment. Fellowship activities include: completing convening pre-assignments, actively engaging in all convenings, participating in coaching conversations, and leading advocacy projects. The time commitment is similar to a rigorous graduate course. Educators should carefully consider their other leadership responsibilities before applying and committing to TEF.

#### **I want to be a school leader. How will this fellowship help?**

Fellows may find that policy learning, skills training, and leading advocacy improves their leadership skills. However, TEF isn't designed to prepare educators for school leadership. The goal of the fellowship is to engage and empower classroom educators to be advocates for their students and their profession.

### ***Admissions***

#### **Who is eligible to apply for the Tennessee Educator Fellowship?**

Classroom teachers, librarians, school counselors, and interventionists with a minimum of three years' experience teaching in a Tennessee public school by May 2020 are eligible to apply.

#### **I'm an instructional coach/school leader. Why am I ineligible?**

Although we value the incredibly important role that instructional coaches and school leaders play, we have a limited number of spots in the fellowship, so we focus on those educator roles that usually have more limited access to leadership opportunities. SCORE hosts events throughout the year that are broadly open to educators, including instructional coaches and school leaders. You can [sign up to receive communications](#) from SCORE to learn about these opportunities.

#### **I've applied before and wasn't offered a position in the fellowship. Can I apply again?**

Absolutely! Please keep in mind that our rigorous admissions process not only includes evaluating individual applications, but we are also building a strong and diverse cohort, with educators representing varied backgrounds, experience levels, districts, subjects, grade levels, and interests. As such, some educators have been admitted to TEF after a second or third application.

#### **When will I learn if I was accepted into the program?**

SCORE anticipates notifying all applicants of their application status by the end of May.

**Where can I receive an update on the current status of my application?**

Because of the high volume of applications, we are unable to provide individual status updates.

**I didn't get accepted. How can I receive feedback on my application?**

Every year, we have many more qualified applicants than positions in the fellowship. Because of the high volume of applications and competitive nature of the process, we cannot offer feedback on applications.

***Logistics and Financial Support*****I have a scheduling conflict with one of the convenings. Can I still participate?**

The learning of the fellowship builds on itself, so fellows must be available to attend the entirety of all required convenings. The convening dates for 2020-21 are as follows:

- Convening 1: Wednesday July 15 - Friday, July 17, 2020
- Convening 2: Friday, September 25 - Saturday, September 26, 2020
- Convening 3: Friday, January 29 - Saturday, January 30, 2021
- Convening 4: Friday, May 7- Saturday, May 8, 2021

**Is there a stipend? What other expenses are covered?**

Fellows earn a \$5,000 stipend for their work. Additionally, SCORE provides hotel accommodations and mileage reimbursement for all Nashville convenings. Meals are provided during convenings, and substitute reimbursement is available.