



June / 18 / 2020

## **Application: Minneapolis Education Ambassadors Fellowship**

**At Great MN Schools, we believe that great schools matter and that they change lives.**

We see first-hand how some schools in our community demonstrate that children from all races, means, and origins can achieve. We need more of them—district, public charter, and independent—because all children should be able to attend high-performing schools that prepare them to thrive in their lives, careers, and communities.

That's why we work across Minneapolis to ensure that all children, especially those from underserved backgrounds, have access to schools that work. Together with our partners—schools, funders, community organizations, and advocates—we're rewriting the future for students, families, and our entire community.

Our community's systemic inequities will not go away without intentional and hard work from all of us. The racial injustice that our black and brown communities face are part of larger, antiquated systems that are producing the exact outcomes that they were designed to achieve. According to the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, this includes K-12 education. Across Minnesota, 69% of white students are deemed "college-ready," compared to 25% of black students, 28% of indigenous students, 36% of Latinx students, and 36% of low-income students.

In these difficult times when injustices are particularly heightened, we hear and acknowledge the pain and frustration that our fellow community members are facing. We share that pain; we're committed to our Minneapolis community and doing our part.

We believe that great schools are the cornerstone of a just and thriving community. Ensuring that every child is able to attend a school that works is our moral and social imperative—our children deserve no less.

**In our work toward more great schools to address our community's inequities, we're inviting community leaders from different backgrounds and perspectives to learn about and discuss K-12 problems and solutions.**

These challenging times offer opportunities to catalyze changes to the systematic roots of racial injustice and inequity. If you're a leader who's fired up to learn about how you can be a K-12 social justice advocate, please apply.



## About the Minneapolis Education Ambassadors Fellowship:

Minneapolis Education Ambassadors are leaders in their respective communities—be it in faith, neighborhood associations, professional groups, or online forums—who are interested in learning more about the K-12 inequities in our schools and how to fix them.

These are sample, demonstrated solutions:

- Every student receives grade-appropriate instruction and curriculum, and parents have a clear way of knowing where their child is academically.
- A holistic, objective, and clear school performance framework that is accessible for all families and that school leaders and decision-makers use to make informed decisions.
- Comprehensive school family engagement plans that value parents as authentic partners in their child's education so that families have the tools, resources, and knowledge to support their child.
- School teachers and staff are representative and reflective of the students they serve.

The ambassadors will work closely with the Great MN Schools director of community partnerships and other staff to learn more deeply about local K-12 inequities and solutions to address them, share their knowledge, and bring what they learn back to their respective communities so that we can educate all of our children as a village.

### What you will do:

- Join a cohort of 25 other leaders in the city to attend 4 informational lunch events together over 12 months to learn about educational equity issues in Minneapolis & the K-12 proven solutions
- Work with Great MN Schools to use your platform as a leader to talk about K-12 issues and solutions with your community to help drive city-wide action
- Become part of a diverse coalition of education advocates in Minneapolis and join our team helping to ensure all children attend great schools

### Who should apply:

Minneapolis leaders who have:

- A deep interest in learning more about making our K-12 educational system work for all children—regardless of race, income, or background;
- Strong ties with the diverse communities within Minneapolis, such as faith, neighborhood groups, cultural and ethnic communities, or business associations; and
- A demonstrated ability to communicate deeply or broadly with community members (platform can take the form of social media followers, listeners, congregants, etc.), and are willing to use their platform to share what they learn.

**Note: We will attempt to find influential leaders who represent the ethnic, racial, and socio-economic diversity of Minneapolis. Applicants who successfully complete the fellowship will receive a \$2,500 stipend for their time.**



## How to apply:

1. Fill out the application below. Send application to [info@greatmnschools.org](mailto:info@greatmnschools.org) by **August 1st, 2020**.
2. If you are accepted into the next round of the application process, we will schedule a short 30-min Zoom interview with you to discuss the program in more detail.

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Social Media Platforms:

Facebook:

Instagram:

Twitter:

Other:

In a separate document please answer the following questions:

Why are you interested in participating in this fellowship program? (in 400 words or less)

Why do you believe education is important to your community? Why do you think it's important for the community to learn about solutions to educational inequities? (in 400 words or less)

Please describe your existing community leadership and platforms, include: how you communicate with your community (i.e. social media, weekly religious services, weekly meetings, etc.), who you are connecting with, how many people you reach on a daily basis. (in 300 words or less)

