WHAT IS EDUCATION POLICY?

Education policy looks at the purpose of education, the objectives the educational body hopes to achieve, as well as the methods and tools used to measure success or failure of the objectives. Educational policy includes not only the principles but also the laws and rules that govern the operation of educational institutions whether that be early childhood programs, grades K-12, 2 and 4 year colleges/universities, graduate and professional degrees as well as adult education and job training programs. Areas that may be analyzed or debated are broad and could include, to name just a few; school/class size, school choice, school privatization, tracking, teacher education/certification, teaching methods, curricular content, graduation requirements, school infrastructure, etc. Due to the 10th Amendment, the role of the federal government is limited and most education policy is decided at the state and local levels. A few of the Federal laws that affect education are the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), Civil Rights, the Higher Education Act, and WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act).

KEY SKILLS

→ Strong interest in education
→ Specific policy knowledge and experience
→ Strong analytical, statistical and evaluations skills
→ Knowledge of the legislative process
→ Strong advocacy and written/oral communication skills
→ Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to listen to and understand a variety of perspectives
→ Ability to facilitate and work with various parties who may have differing view points
→ Strong project management skills
→ Budget and financial management skills
→ Well-developed problem solving skills
→ Superior leadership, collaboration and teamwork skills

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

National Organizations:

- **Office of Head Start (OHS)** – OHS manages grant funding and oversees local agencies providing Head Start services. Head Start promotes school readiness of children under 5 from low-income families through education, health, social and other services.

- **US Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)** – Their mission is to promote academic excellence, enhance educational opportunities and equity for all America’s children and families, and to improve the quality of teaching and learning by providing leadership, technical assistance and financial support.

- **US Department of Defense, Education Activity (DODEA)** – One of only two Federally-operated school systems, is responsible for planning, directing, coordinating, and managing prekindergarten through 12th grade educational programs on behalf of the Department of Defense.

- **US Department of Education (ED)** – Their mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.
• **US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education** – They are responsible for educating approximately 42,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children at 164 elementary and secondary schools on 64 reservations in 23 states.

**State Organizations:**

• **Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)** – The mission of DESE is to guarantee the superior preparation and performance of every child in school and in life.

• **Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE)** – Strives to coordinate higher education policy that fosters a quality postsecondary system, as well as to increase participation in Missouri’s public institutions. The state system of higher education serves more than 450,000 students through 13 public four-year universities, 14 public two-year colleges, one public two-year technical college, 26 independent colleges and universities and more than 150 proprietary and private career schools.

**NONPROFITS**

• **American Council on Education (ACE)** – ACE is the nation’s most visible and influential higher education association. They represent the presidents of US accredited degree-granting institution, which include two- and four-year colleges, private and public universities, and nonprofit and for profit entities.

• **Association of American Universities (AAU)** – The AAU is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that comprises 62 leading public and private research universities in the US and Canada. Founded in 1900 to advance the international standing of U.S. research universities, AAU today focuses on issues that are important to research-intensive universities, such as funding for research, research policy issues, and graduate and undergraduate education.

• **Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU)** – APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of the public universities in the US, Canada, and Mexico.

• **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** - Works to ensure that every person in the world experiences the power of a great education. They are dedicated to strengthening education systems in developing countries to dramatically improve access and learning outcomes.

• **Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA)** – Since 1856, the MSTA has been leading the way for Missouri’s educators with services and benefits, MSTA is a grassroots organization made up of local Community Teach Associations (CTA) in each local school district.

• **National Alliance for Public Charter Schools** – The National Alliance is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to achieving the public charter school movement. Their mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement by fostering a strong charter movement.

• **National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)** – NAGC supports and develops policies and practices that encourage and respond to the diverse expressions of gifts and talents in children and youth from all cultures, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and socioeconomic groups. NAGC supports and engages in research and development, staff development, advocacy, communication, and collaboration with other organizations and agencies who strive to improve the quality of education for all students.

• **National Education Association (NEA)** – NEA is committed to advancing the cause of public education. Their 3 million members work at every level of education, from pre-school to university graduate programs. NEA has affiliate organizations in every state and in more than 14,000 communities across the United States.
• Missouri National Education Association (MNEA) – Missouri NEA is an advocate for public schools, public school students and public school employees. The majority of MNEA’s professional staff are located in regional offices across the state.

FELLOWSHIPS IN EDUCATION

• **Abe Fellowship** – Designed to create intellectual cooperation between the Japanese and American academic communities through multidisciplinary research on topic of global concern.

• **ACE Fellows Program** – The ACE Fellows Program enables participants to immerse themselves in the culture, policies, and decision-making processes of other institutions.

• **Ashoka Innovators for the Public Fellowship** – supports social entrepreneurs who are changing patterns and transforming systems.

• **BPI Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellowship** – offers the opportunity for recent law school or public policy school graduates to develop the experience, skills and network critical to a rewarding career in public interest advocacy.

• **Broad Residency in Urban Education** – A leadership development program that places qualifies participants into high-level managerial positions in school districts, charter management organizations and federal/state departments of education.

• **Education Pioneers Fellowship** – The Education Pioneers Fellowship provides exceptional professionals with pathways into education leadership careers that solve problems outside the classroom so that teachers and students can succeed in the classroom.

• **Education Policy Leadership Networking (EPFP)** – EPFP combines regular meetings and activities specific to each state-based site program with events of national scope to provide an enriching experience for more than 300 Fellows each year.

• **Educators Entrepreneur Fellowship** – The Mind Trust equips talented leaders to transform K-12 education by starting organizations to address some of its most pressing problems. Those organizations include great charter schools or other groups providing the schools The Mind Trust launches with key support in areas such as helping students advance during the summer, retaining great teachers, and more.

• **J. William Fulbright – Hillary Rodham Clinton (Fulbright-Clinton) Fellowship** – Fulbright-Clinton Fellows serve in professional placements as special assistants in foreign government ministries or institutions and gain hands-on public sector experience in participating foreign countries while simultaneously carrying out an academic research/study project.

• **The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation** – Through its array of programs, Woodrow Wilson has been privileged to support the development of more than 22,000 leaders – teachers and scholars, leaders and businesspeople, artists and innovators.