School Funding Research and Policy Fellow

The Education Law Center's mission is to ensure access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania. For 40 years, we have advocated for the most vulnerable students -- children living in poverty, children of color, those in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, English Language Learners, and those experiencing homelessness. We focus on three key program areas: (1) **Fighting for Fair Funding**, which includes advocating for adequate and equitable state funding for under-resourced schools in Pennsylvania; (2) **Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline**, which includes promoting evidence-based prevention practices to improve school climate while advocating against exclusionary discipline policies that push at-risk children out of school and often into the school-to-prison pipeline; and (3) **Ensuring Equal Access**, which includes advocating for access to school and needed services on behalf of at-risk students. ELC employs a broad range of strategies to accomplish our mission, including direct legal representation, impact litigation, educating parents and students about their legal rights, supporting community-based groups, and policy advocacy on the local, state, and federal levels. **We seek a Haverford House Fellow to assist us in an important school funding advocacy project.**

Pennsylvania has the widest gap in the nation between the highest and lowest spending districts. Economic and racial inequities abound across the state and many of our students do not have access to an adequate education. Simply put, students across Pennsylvania are not receiving the services to which they are entitled because schools are underfunded. Pennsylvania needs an accurate, fair, and transparent funding system, and ensuring that all of Pennsylvania's children have equal access to a quality public education.
the state must send an adequate amount of money through this formula to our school

districts.

ELC is pursuing multiple strategies to address the school funding crisis, including
the filing of a major state constitutional legal challenge to the current system of public
education. ELC is also a leader of the Campaign for Fair Education Funding, a statewide
coalition of nearly 50 organizations working together to ensure that all students in
Pennsylvania have access to an adequate education no matter where they live. We seek a
highly-motivated Haverford House Fellow to assist with this advocacy. Specific tasks
include:

- Conducting social science research on school finance and other education issues
- Collecting and analyzing data for use in school funding litigation and other
  advocacy
- Writing policy analyses and policy briefs connected to legislation, school funding
  research, and advocacy
- Helping to plan symposia on the importance of adequate funding in education
- Working with community members as we help them advocate for fair funding
  with policy makers
- Assisting communications team with media activities, including drafting press
  releases, background briefings, editorial board meetings, and maintaining up-to-
  date media lists
- Expanding our contacts with public education activists and community groups
  throughout the state. This will entail identifying new contacts (from existing
  relationships, news articles, phone calls and e-mails addressed to us, etc.), talking
  with them to learn their concerns and to share our perspectives, and bringing them
  into our networks.

Qualifications:
- Excellent interpersonal, writing, and computer skills
- Superior organization skills
- Interest in education-related issues or child advocacy
- Experience with quantitative analyses a plus
- Ability to help with graphic design (e.g. ability to create effective infographics) a
  plus
- Motivated individual who is able to work in a team environment
- Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously
- Ability to work independently
• Flexibility and a sense of humor

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply. The Research and Policy Fellow will report to ELC’s Policy and Communications Associate. The Fellow will have the opportunity to work with the entire ELC staff. Interested applicants should contact Policy and Communications Associate Ian Gavigan (Haverford ’14 and Haverford House Fellow ’15) at igavigan@ele-pa.org or 215 238-6970 x 303.