

IMPACT

Arkansas Principal Fellows Program

“The IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship has helped to further ignite my passion for education and my passion for being a lifelong learner. The tools, resources, and practices I have been able to add to my toolkit will allow me to become a more effective leader.

Anita Hart-McNair, Principal,
Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School, cohort 5 graduate

The IMPACT Arkansas Principal Fellows Program is an innovative leadership preparation program that prepares a cohort of **20** future leaders annually for high-poverty schools throughout Arkansas.

Since 2014, IMPACT has recruited **146** aspiring school leaders serving **124** high-poverty schools in **88** Arkansas public school districts and **8** charter schools.

Candidates for the Fellowship must work in schools serving at least **70%** of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

Through generous financial support from the Walton Family Foundation, the Windgate Foundation, and the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, Fellows receive a scholarship that covers **80%** of the tuition and fees for the 18-month program. Fellows also receive individualized coaching and mentoring throughout the program.

IMPACT has graduated **106** well-prepared aspiring school leaders for our state.

“The IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship has helped me reflect on myself as a teacher leader. It has made me more confident in my leadership abilities and more focused. IMPACT has taught me how to think outside the box and become a change agent for my school and district.

Aimee Freeman-Young, Assistant Principal,
Terry Elementary, Little Rock School District, cohort 2 graduate

More than **85%** of our graduated Fellows still work in high-poverty schools today.

53% of our graduated Fellows currently work in formal school leadership positions.

7 of the Top 10 Arkansas districts showing “Best Freshman Success” in a 2022 Office for Education Policy report have been IMPACT Partner districts (some have had multiple Fellows).

8 IMPACT schools were recognized by OEP as 2023 Growth Award Schools (among the highest value-added growth in state or region).

16 IMPACT schools were recognized by OEP as 2023 Beating the Odds Schools (high poverty schools outperforming expectations).



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Jenni Phomsithi (cohort 5 graduate) is the Principal at S.C.Tucker Elementary School in the Danville School District, which serves 76% of students on free or reduced price lunch. The school has been led by an IMPACT graduate for the past five years and is an “A” rated school with the highest growth for all Arkansas elementary schools in 2022. It was recently named a **2023 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL** by the U.S. Department of Education.



Stacie Breshears (cohort 1 graduate) is the Assistant Principal at Wakefield Elementary School in the Little Rock School District, which serves 97.85% of students on free or reduced price lunch. Stacie’s school implemented strategies for teaching reading that she developed during her IMPACT experience and has been recognized as **“BEATING THE ODDS”** for student outcomes for **SIX CONSECUTIVE YEARS**.

“ The IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship is helping me to be a more reflective and effective leader in my school. The program is made of real people inspiring me to be the best leader that I can be.

Brandolyn Peterson, Assistant Principal,
Bayyari Elementary, Springdale School District, cohort 3 graduate

“ The IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship has improved me as a person and educator. To be a leader takes time, understanding, confidence, and, most importantly, a “why” to their actions. IMPACT Arkansas has helped my “why” become my focus.

Tara Gates, Principal,
Hermitage Elementary School, cohort 6 graduate

Cindy Bever (cohort 2 graduate) is the Principal at Ivory Intermediate School in the Camden-Fairview School District, which serves 85% of students on free or reduced price lunch. In 2022-2023 (her first year as principal), Cindy focused on redefining the school’s culture to drive positive student engagement through the implementation of a “house” system, and her school saw a **90% REDUCTION** in the number of **STUDENT DISCIPLINE REFERRALS** from the previous school year.

