

The Entrepreneur-in-Residence Fellowship



The Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) fellowship is a two-year incubator that supports future school founders as they design and launch new schools in St. Louis. We aim to select up to two fellows each year.

Building Schools for the Future

The Opportunity Trust believes that all students deserve a school that honors who they are and prepares them to thrive in our rapidly changing world. However, that promise goes unrealized for far too many students in St. Louis.

We are committed to supporting bold leaders who are working to provide families with the schools they need. The Entrepreneur-in-Residence fellowship is an opportunity for school visionaries to imagine, design, pilot, and launch world-class schools in response to family and community needs in St. Louis.

Ecosystem of Support

As part of the fellowship, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence have access to numerous supports to help design and launch world-class schools, including:

PEOPLE

- Regular meetings with a coach
- A broad network of co-creators, advisors, and formal supports

EXPERIENCES

- Bi-weekly learning days
- Best-in-class insights

TOOLS & RESOURCES

- Annual salary from \$90,000 to \$125,000 plus health benefits
- Eligibility for a \$25,000 planning grant
- Access to curated research, templates, and tools

Key Milestones

The EIR fellowship is a self-driven, two-year process guided by key milestones to ensure your school is ready to launch by the completion of the program.

YEAR 1

Enlist a coalition of supporters and co-creators

Design and pilot your new school model

Complete and submit charter application

YEAR 2

Earn sponsor and state approval

Recruit and on-board founding families and staff

Grow operational capacity

Prepare to launch

Meet Current and Past EIR Fellows



Charles Stanley, Jr.
FOUNDER

Ignite Liberatory Academy

The mission of **Ignite Liberatory Academy** is to empower students in kindergarten through eighth grade through various forms of literacy – print, digital, and financial – to live productive lives of choice and voice.

“The EIR fellowship has given me autonomy to create and opportunity to meet a network of people who’ve been successful in this work. It’s been helpful in pressure testing ideas and making sure I’m putting forth a model that’s going to work in bringing achievement for kids.”



Colby Heckendorn &
Genevieve Backer
FOUNDERS

Atlas Public Schools

The mission of **Atlas Public Schools** is to educate the whole child by combining a rigorous academic program with authentic, real-world experiences so all students thrive in middle school, high school, and beyond.

Atlas launched in fall 2021 fully enrolled with 114 students in grades K-1.



About You

While we’re actively seeking diverse profiles of leadership, successful applicants must demonstrate:

- An unwavering bar for excellence and a track record of results
- Commitment to equity
- Curiosity and self-direction
- Strong leadership
- A promising vision for a new school



Key Dates

Virtual info session - Feb. 17

Application deadline - Feb. 25

In Person Interviews - April 5, 6, 7, or 8 in St. Louis

For more information or to apply:

theopportunitytrust.org

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