



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – EDUCATION POLICY ANALYST

7/20/2021

The Mississippi Center for Justice is a nonprofit, public interest law firm committed to advancing racial and economic justice statewide. Our lawyers work with community leaders to support social justice campaigns and to channel the energies of the legal community to combat discrimination and poverty. With offices in Jackson, Biloxi, and Indianola, we seek systemic solutions that protect the rights of consumers, secure access to healthcare, protect voting rights for all, protect immigrant and undocumented families, and make fair and affordable housing available for all Mississippians. Visit our website at www.mscenterforjustice.org.

The Mississippi Center for Justice seeks a full-time Education Policy Analyst.

Position Summary

Under the general direction of the President/CEO, the Education Policy Analyst (EdPA) will engage in research and analysis in school districts across Mississippi to identify:

- 1) The disparate impacts of COVID-19 on African American students, English-language learners, and students with disabilities in elementary and secondary education.
- 2) The impact of the varying remote learning models and approaches.
- 3) The utilization of federal and state funds allocated for COVID education relief to state and school districts.

In collaboration with coalition partners focused on bringing disparities in Mississippi K-12 education to the forefront of state and local policymaking and investment, the EdPA will identify and support MCJ advocacy efforts, specifically focusing on the education disparities exacerbated by forced and unsupported remote learning. In addition, the EdPA will gather information on the lived experiences of students and their parents while coping with the shift from in-person to remote learning and its impact on post-COVID learning and educational progress.

Primary Duties & Responsibilities

The EdPA's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conduct quantitative and qualitative research, analysis, and synthesis on 1) the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on African American students, English-language learners, and students with disabilities in elementary and secondary education; 2) the impact of the varying remote learning models and approaches; and 3) the utilization of federal and state funds allocated for COVID education relief to state and school districts.
- Draft policy-focused white papers, briefs and advisories, manuals, news items, articles, public comments, fact sheets, and other written collateral that inform and demonstrate the findings and recommendations arising from research and analysis.
- Prepare and deliver presentations on various education policy research topics.
- Assist in the development, collection, and analysis of data from surveys and focus groups.
- Monitor education policy trends, innovations, legislative issues, and changes in regulations.
- Maintain current understanding of the education field, from state laws to local district policies.

- Participate in and help define short- and long-term strategies and goals for MCJ's education advocacy and policy agenda.
- Attend, participate, and represent MCJ on external education committees, boards, commissions, councils, and advisory groups.
- Contribute to the development of proposals and budgets for grant proposals; participate in the implementation of grant-funded work.
- Travel to various locations throughout the state of Mississippi and outside the state as required.
- Support MCJ to develop and sustain relationships with community-based organizations that directly impact students and parents, including statewide and local civil rights organizations, early childhood organizations, parents, students, faith-based organizations, education related businesses, education advocacy groups, legislators, practitioners, and the general public.
- Leverage relationships with grassroots leaders and organizations to prioritize the improvement Mississippi's K-12 education by moving the issue to the forefront of state policymaking and investment.
- Work collaboratively with the President/CEO, MCJ's legal/advocacy teams, and communications, digital, and design staff to develop fact sheets, talking points, op-eds and letters to the editor, reports, social media and traditional media resources, and platforms that will educate legislators, agency officials, stakeholders, and the general public to advance MCJ's policy objectives.
- Supervise community advocate in support of active stakeholder engagement and research-intensive activities.
- Perform a variety of other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Experience

We are seeking a candidate with a combination of the following demonstrated qualifications and experiences:

- Passion for increasing statewide access to high-quality K-12 educational experiences for all children – especially focused on children from under-resourced communities and children of color who have been impacted by systemic racism and other social barriers to access – and an unwavering belief that these children could be much more successful if institutions better served them and their families.
- Familiarity with the Mississippi education continuums at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Master's degree or PhD with 1-2 years of relevant experience, or BA with 3-5+ years of relevant experience (preferred but will consider all candidates) preferably in public policy or other related fields with a focus on Mississippi's education systems.
- Knowledge of research methods and techniques; considerations in planning studies and investigations; and general principles, concepts, and terminology used in research.
- Knowledge of curriculum, school finance, and/or other state education issues.
- Knowledge of best practices in data collection and analysis and survey development and deployment.
- Understanding of education policy research and analysis, and program research, analysis, and evaluation.
- Supervision of others.
- Understanding of issues and policy related to English-language learners.
- Ability to summarize key points and connections clearly and accurately in education and policy research articles and reports to draft research policy papers, white papers, policy briefs, and other MCJ communications.
- Ability to make clear and compelling presentations about key education practice and policy topics.
- Ability to analyze legislative and regulatory proposals.

- Ability to plan, coordinate, and facilitate meetings and events about complex education disparities and other related social and economic issues.
- Ability to develop thoughtful, multifaceted action plans to approach difficult and complicated policy questions, research, and other strategies to develop a thorough understanding of the issues and build realistic solutions.

Disclaimer

The statements herein are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by the employee in this position. These statements are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of a person in this position.

Compensation and Benefits

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. MCJ offers a comprehensive benefits package.

Application Process

To apply, please send a cover letter, résumé with three professional references, and two writing samples (e.g., policy/white paper, published article/op-ed) to:

Vangela M. Wade, President/CEO
vwade@mscenterforjustice.org

Please, no telephone inquiries. The position will remain open until filled.

The Mississippi Center for Justice is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We value a workplace that is diverse in race, gender, economic status, age, geographic origin, sexual orientation, and other differences that enrich our organizational culture.