

# Teach For America and Building Excellent Schools:

**TEACHFORAMERICA**

Partnership to place exceptional educators in leadership roles

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As a Teach For America alumnus, you already possess the most important qualities found in effective urban school leaders – the relentless focus on results, the high expectations for all students, and the deep commitment to ensuring significant gains. If you accept our call to leadership, you will be able to build on what you already know in order to lead a school of uncompromising academic excellence through the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship. In the process, you will positively impact both the achievement levels of thousands of children and the professional environment for dozens of your fellow educators.

Through a continuing partnership, Teach For America and Building Excellent Schools are offering great opportunities for alumni interested in charter school leadership.

## **Building Excellent Schools Fellowship**

Building Excellent Schools is a national nonprofit committed to increasing the number of opportunities for urban children to receive a high-quality, college-preparatory education. Through our Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, we offer qualified candidates a yearlong, comprehensive training program in urban charter school design, start-up, and management. After the Fellowship, BES Fellows receive additional support and coaching as they guide their schools through start-up and early operations.

To date, 12 Teach For America alumni have participated in the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, including seven in the 2007-2008 Fellowship cohort.

## **As a Building Excellent Schools Fellow, you:**

**Take the Lead:** You become the lead founder of a charter school project in your home territory. You choose the community; you build the board; you build stakeholder support; and you make critical design decisions. Most importantly, you build an independently managed school that you will lead once it opens.

**Get the Training:** Through approximately 100 training days in Boston and structured work in your home territory, we teach you the essential best practices which will ensure your students succeed. You will complete the program with the confidence that your school will be well designed, highly structured, and strongly focused on academics.

**Get the Support:** As a BES Fellow, your full-time job is to design, build, and open your charter school. We pay you a professional stipend of \$80,000, assist you in recruiting staff and board members, and support you through your school's opening and beyond.

### **Not yet ready to be a school founder?**

If you are not quite ready to lead your own school, but are interested in pursuing secondary leadership positions in high-performing urban charter schools, Building Excellent Schools and Teach For America are working in strategic partnership to connect interested Teach For America alumni with more than two dozen Fellow Founded Schools across the United States. Alumni who successfully complete a year of service in a Fellow Founded School, receive a nomination from their school leader/fellowship alumnus/a, and complete the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship application will advance to the final round of the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship selection process for that school year.

Positions available through this partnership include: executive director, director of curriculum and instruction, director of student assessment, department chair, subject coach, dean of students, and director of student support. All positions are full-time and the salaries offered by individual schools are competitive in their given markets.

### **What do we look for in our leaders?**

Whether you are interested in a secondary leadership role in a Fellow Founded School or you are compelled to pursue the Fellowship, you must be a relentless achiever, demanding of yourself and others, willing to learn, highly flexible, and professional. You will work and think hard and be asked to adjust quickly in a demanding environment.

Teach For America alumni are often excellent candidates for the Fellowship and for other positions in Fellow Founded Schools because the missions of our organizations are so closely aligned. To date, 12 Teach

For America alumni have been Building Excellent Schools Fellows, including seven in the 2007-2008 Fellowship cohort. There are also dozens of Teach For America alumni who work in Fellow Founded Schools. We believe that any high-capacity individual with deep concern and passion for fundamentally changing urban education can build educational excellence in their communities, regardless of that individual's age, background, or work experience—provided they share Building Excellent Schools' core beliefs.

In essence, you give us one year, and we give you deep training, show you what's possible, and support you as you grow from a committed and effective educator to an educational entrepreneur, community leader, and compelling change agent.

### **How do you apply?**

To apply for the Fellowship, please contact BES National Recruiter Niambi Brown (Baltimore '98) at [nbrown@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:nbrown@buildingexcellentschools.org). We strongly recommend engaging in conversation with a recruiter prior to applying for the Fellowship. However, applications can be completed online at [www.buildingexcellentschools.org](http://www.buildingexcellentschools.org) anytime. **The priority application deadline is November 1st and the regular deadline is March 17th.** Teach For America alumni are encouraged to apply as early as possible, as applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

To submit your name in consideration for a secondary leadership role, please email your resume and a short cover letter to Chris Clemons, Building Excellent Schools Special Projects Consultant, at [cclemons@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:cclemons@buildingexcellentschools.org).

**I joined Building Excellent Schools so that I could do more than just talk about getting kids to college...I wanted to take them there myself.**

—Rachel Bennett,  
2007 BES Fellow, Phoenix '03

