

Mikva Challenge

Mikva Challenge Educator Fellowship *2025-26 School Year*

Fellowship overview: As participants in the Mikva Challenge Educator Fellowship, educators engage with the Mikva Challenge Issues to Action (ITA) framework and learn how to use it to enrich their lessons and practices to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experiences they need to become informed and engaged leaders in our democracy. The Mikva Challenge Educator Fellowship provides educators the chance to deeply engage with ITA, collaborate with Mikva Challenge staff and other fellows across the city, and gain insights and feedback on implementation. After two semesters of learning in community, including eight synchronous sessions, educators will have an opportunity to showcase their work.

Overarching objectives:

1. Educators will practice strategies to prepare their students to participate in challenging conversations.
2. Educators will gain the skills to provide real-world civic learning opportunities in order to empower students to research and address the issues that matter most to them and amplify their voices in shaping their communities.
3. Educators will learn to navigate and implement the Issues to Action (ITA) framework and other resources available through the Mikva Challenge website.
4. Educators will showcase their learning by creating an implementation project that advocates for classroom experiences that inspire and prepare students for lifelong civic participation in their contexts.

Eligibility requirements:

1. In order to be considered for the Educator Fellowship, applicants must be an educator that will use the ITA framework with either 5-8 or 9-12 students (for example, through a classroom, after school programming, non-profit or museum setting, etc.).
2. Applicants must work with students in the city of Chicago.
3. No prior experience with or knowledge of Mikva Challenge curriculum and/or programming is required.

Fellowship requirements:

1. Synchronous sessions:

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- Attend 1-2 day summer kickoff workshop (in person)
- Attend 8 synchronous cohort sessions via Zoom from September 2025 - April 2026. In order to receive the stipend, educators can miss no more than 2 sessions (recordings will be sent to them).

2. Asynchronous work: Fellows must be willing to dedicate time outside of synchronous sessions to exploring and implementing Mikva resources and working on their showcase project (expect about 1-1.5 hours a week).

3. Showcase: Fellows will showcase their learning at a spring event.

4. Post fellowship: Educators will use what they learned during the fellowship in their contexts, such as creating new lesson plans, professional development, or documenting student reflections/learnings within a calendar year.

Showcase information:

- Prior to the showcase, educators will have an opportunity to collaborate with Mikva Challenge staff, Mikva teachers, and other fellows to help craft their projects.
- The showcase will be held in the spring at a date TBD.
- This showcase will present educators with a unique opportunity to apply what they learned, such as designing a community project or a learning plan or professional development for other educators, that highlights participants' contributions to the field of fostering a generation of empowered, informed, and active citizens

Upon completion of the fellowship:

- Participants will receive a \$1,200 stipend (\$600 per semester).
- Participants will receive a signed certificate of completion that shows their hours of engagement (approximately 26 hours) upon completion and presentation of their showcase project.
- Participants will receive a Mikva Educator digital badge.

If you have questions after reading the eligibility requirements and fellowship details, please reach out to Rebecca Coven, Director of School-Based Programming IL at rebeccac@mikvachallenge.org.

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