



ReSchool Colorado Learner Advocate

The Donnell-Kay Foundation (DK) is looking for a Learner Advocate to join our ReSchool Colorado team.

ReSchool Colorado began as a multi-year initiative of the Donnell-Kay Foundation and is in the process of becoming its own non-profit organization. Our mission is to design an inspirational education system that coordinates people and resources in new, dynamic ways. After five years of research and design, we are shifting our focus from testing early stage ideas to growing new services and programs to support learners and parents in their effort to navigate, and make meaning of, our increasingly complex systems of learning.

One key role that is resonating strongly with learners and parents is the support of Learner Advocates. ReSchool is running a Learner Advocate Network (LAN) that works with learners and their parents to understand their values and context, articulate their learning goals, build relationships and support networks, increase their capacity to make meaningful choices about education, and access excellent learning opportunities both within school and beyond. We refer to this process as building agency.

As we wrap up a one-year pilot that tested the concept of the Learner Advocate Network, the ReSchool team is preparing to act on our lessons and grow the LAN to reach more families in Colorado. As such, we are seeking a new Learner Advocate to be a highly engaged and enthusiastic member of our dynamic growing team.

What does the Learner Advocate do?

- Meet with parents and learners one-on-one and in group settings to address their learning goals.
 - Individual meetings could take place at the parent's workplace, at home, at school, or at another location like the library, rec center, or coffee shop.
- Create profiles with parents and children that identify their needs, strengths and aspirations. These profiles continually evolve and grow with the learner as he/she experiences new opportunities.
- Connect families and learners to educational opportunities in the summer and additional supports and resources, as needed (with support from a curated website called [Blueprint4Summer](#)).
- Utilize technology to maintain regular and consistent communication with parents via phone calls, texting and email, as necessary. Keep track of the status of multiple family relationships.
- Coach parents in overcoming barriers and expanding their comfort zones to try new things.
- Facilitate ReSchool-developed group workshops on a particular topic, such as school choice.
- Regularly reflect on and document challenges, lessons, and opportunities for growth.
- Lend ideas and insights to the long-term vision of the Learner Advocate Network.
- Be an active, thoughtful, and compassionate contributor to our team. Check in weekly with the Learner Advocate Network Lead, and every other week with the full ReSchool Colorado team.

You are a good fit for the Learner Advocate role if...

- You believe in [ReSchool's vision](#) for our education system. You believe learning happens anywhere, and the opportunity gap outside of school is as troubling as the achievement gap within school.

- You are a confident coach who is passionate about providing kids and families with the tools, skills and resources to navigate their educational paths. You are a master navigator of the system.
- You are highly skilled at responding to learner and family needs in creative and effective ways.
- You are knowledgeable about existing programs and resources, and are curious to find more.
- You empathize with people from all walks of life, especially those experiencing challenges.
- You have the ability to communicate confidently with our external partners. We can count on you to represent ReSchool in a professional way to the broader community.
- You are extremely organized and can manage multiple schedules and last-minute changes.
- You have a flexible schedule that allows for on-demand, evening and weekend commitments.
- You are savvy with Microsoft and Google applications and are open to using new technologies.
- You are a proficient English speaker. Bilingualism and biculturalism is a plus.
- You continue to hone your expertise and skillset as a current or former educator, academic advisor, counselor, social worker, and/or family engagement professional.

This is a full-time position with a competitive salary and benefits package.

How do I apply?

Please email a resume and detailed cover letter describing your interest in, and qualifications for, this position to Rebecca Kisner at rkisner@dkfoundation.org. We will begin accepting applications on January 23, 2018 and review them on a rolling basis until the position is filled. The ideal start date is in March 2018.

Background

The purpose of the [Learner Advocate Network](#) is to build the agency of students (learners) and their families to make informed educational decisions and to navigate their learning within and beyond schools. The Learner Advocate is an essential role in achieving this vision: his/her primary job is to build deep partnerships with a cohort of parents and learners in order to serve their needs and aspirations.

One of several roles in the Network, the Learner Advocate is the most “forward-facing” person and the one who interacts most regularly with parents and learners. However, they always have the support of their Network to complete other jobs such as information technology, data management, and finding all the community’s resources and learning opportunities such as camps, classes, mentors, internships and jobs.

For more background on how the Learner Advocate Network came to be, read these blog posts:

[What Does it Take to Navigate our Education System?](#)

[How We Plan to Build the Agency of Learners & Families](#)

[The First Step Towards Agency: The Learner Profile](#)

About the Donnell-Kay Foundation

The [Donnell-Kay Foundation](#) aims to improve public education in Colorado through research, policy, creative dialogue, and critical thinking. We invest in projects, programs, and people who seek systemic solutions to strengthening the experience of learning for kids from birth to career.