



ROLE: State Director – New York

LOCATION: New York, NY

START DATE: March 1, 2019 or ASAP

REPORTS TO: Chief of Staff and State Operations

ABOUT DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM (DFER) and DFER NY

Democrats for Education Reform is a national political organization that supports elected Democrats and candidates for office who seek to expand policies and practices that work well for New York's public school students and confront those that do not. DFER was founded in 2007 by a group of activists and social entrepreneurs to address the persistent and growing achievement gap in America's public schools, as well as the social, cultural, and economic crises that education inequality perpetuates. The New York chapter launched in 2008 with the goal of supporting Democrat policymakers in the state who promote excellence and equity in public education by legislating with a student-centered approach.

ROLE OVERVIEW & RESPONSIBILITIES

We are Democrats leading a political reform organization that cultivates and supports leaders in our party who champion America's public school children. We aim to increase both the quantity and quality of elected Democrats who will fight to advance educational opportunities for communities lacking access to high quality public options.

DFER is seeking a State Director to lead its New York chapter and be responsible for advancing the DFER mission in the state. This requires:

- Developing and implementing a political strategy and policy agenda
- Designing and executing successful non-profit and political fundraising campaigns
- Building a diverse network of local allies and partners, and
- Executing a comprehensive communications plan.

The State Director will have access to political, policy, communications, development, and back-office support from the organization's national office.

DFER NY aims to create a political environment across the state that prioritizes our children, families, and public schools. Specifically:

- We partner and support elected officials who share our vision to prioritize a student-centered policy agenda rooted in educational equity and excellence.
- We work to recruit, train, and support prospective candidates running for office that will vocally champion DFER's equity agenda.
- We build a network of coalition partners who share our ambition for who we know our children are and can be, what we know our children can learn and contribute, and where we know our children can go.
- We cultivate our existing donor base and build new donor champions who understand the value of politics in education policymaking.

- We organize school leaders, parents, community members, and stakeholders to advocate on behalf of expanded opportunities.
- We track policy, legislation, and news for our base of supporters so they have consistent and synthesized access to information.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications and skills:

- **Leadership experience:** leadership and management experience within the non-profit education and political campaign/advocacy sectors; record of achieving ambitious results in these roles
- **Fundraising:** ability to raise funds in a non-profit and/or political context (and ideally experience in both)
- **Knowledge and networks:** understanding the landscape and having existing relationships within New York state and local political systems and leaders
- **Strategic thinking:** ability to map the local political and education landscapes and determine the key levers and timing for change and progress
- **Communication skills:** extremely compelling communicator, in writing and in person; able to persuade and influence individuals and groups that are not fully aligned to collaborate with each other
- **Goal-driven and persistent:** strong track record of setting and achieving big goals despite challenges; operates with a relentless determination to achieve goals with creativity; has enthusiasm for the work
- **Political savvy:** motivated by the opportunity to affect change in the political and advocacy sphere; interest in politics and advocacy on national, state, and local levels
- **Mission fit:** commitment to policy reforms that will improve educational opportunities for all students, particularly students of color and low-income students; a strong racial and social justice lens; a sense of humor and humility; comfort with complexity.

COMPENSATION

Competitive salary, commensurate with experience. DFER is proud to offer excellent benefits: health and dental coverage; life insurance; short- and long-term disability; 401K with a match plan; flexible spending/benefits plan; holidays and paid vacation.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Democrats for Education Reform seeks individuals from all backgrounds to apply for this position. DFER continuously ensures that an equity lens and a specific focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion is present in each aspect of our work and embedded into our organizational fabric, including our hiring processes.

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply as soon as possible, even if you are not available to start immediately. All applications are held in strict confidence. Interested applicants should send resume, cover letter and two professional references (references are not contacted until you have had a successful interview and are notified) to: nysearch@dfcr.org.