



SPARK Teacher Fellowship Info Sheet

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What is the SPARK Fellowship?

The SPARK Teacher Fellowship is a three-month, seven-session, cohort-based professional learning experience that empowers educators to explore, implement, and share transformative classroom projects. Grounded in **competency-based learning**, **authentic documentation**, and **educator metacognition**, SPARK supports teachers in reimagining what's possible for student learning—starting in their own classrooms.

Fellows develop projects that are personalized, actionable, and aligned not only to their professional goals but also to district and school-level priorities and principles.

Fellowship Goals

- **Design for Real-World Impact:** Fellows build and implement a project that connects deeply with student needs and community assets.
- **Community-Centered Design Principles:** The cohort co-creates guiding principles to shape the fellowship experience and ensure relevance and ownership.
- **Competency-Based Growth:** Fellows use national frameworks (like those from Aurora Institute) and local priorities to guide mastery-based growth.
- **Unrulr Documentation:** Fellows use Unrulr to capture milestones, reflections, and project development in a powerful digital portfolio.
- **Reflective Metacognition:** Fellows engage in meaningful reflection—thinking deeply about their practice, successes, challenges, and next steps in community with other passionate educators.
- **Public Exhibition of Learning:** Fellows share their work with peers, school and district leaders, and community members in a culminating exhibition that celebrates transformation.

Fellowship Structure

SESSIONS 1–7 are delivered in dynamic, interactive virtual meetings over the course of three months (typically one session per week), alongside embedded coaching, documentation, and collaboration.

Fellowship Sessions

- **SESSION 1 – Vision & Design Principles**
 - Co-create cohort agreements
 - Identify powerful project ideas rooted in authentic need
 - Begin reflecting in Unruly
- **SESSION 2 – Competency-Based Learning & Success Criteria**
 - Explore national and local CBE frameworks
 - Draft personalized success criteria and project rubrics
 - Build accountability partnerships
- **SESSION 3 – Designing for Authentic Learning**
 - Align classroom projects with real-world problems
 - Activate students and communities as co-creators
 - Share ideas for feedback
- **SESSION 4 – Documenting & Reflecting on Learning**
 - Use Unruly to track progress, questions, and insights
 - Explore powerful reflection strategies
 - Develop a sustainable documentation plan
- **SESSION 5 – Testing, Iterating & Gathering Evidence**
 - Prototype your project in real time
 - Use peer and coach feedback to refine implementation
 - Identify challenges and co-develop solutions
- **SESSION 6 – Preparing for Exhibition**
 - Synthesize documentation and project outcomes
 - Gather artifacts and evidence of learning
 - Practice storytelling and defense of learning
- **SESSION 7 – Public Exhibition & Celebration**
 - Share your project with community members and stakeholders





- Receive affirming and actionable feedback
 - Celebrate growth and plan for sustainability
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Coaching & Collaboration

- **Coaching Touchpoints:** Structured time to reflect, plan, and receive support
 - **Peer Collaborations:** Fellows support one another through feedback cycles and community connections
 - **Unrulr Portfolio:** Real-time documentation and reflections make learning visible for educators and their schools
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Fellowship Outcomes

By the end of the Fellowship, educators will have:

-  A classroom-tested project with authentic student and community impact
 -  A robust Unrulr portfolio documenting professional learning and project growth
 -  Clear evidence of personalized, competency-based professional development
 -  A renewed sense of agency and a network of passionate educators committed to equity, reflection, and transformation
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Teacher Fellow Testimonials

*These testimonials are pulled from the anonymous end-of-fellowship reflections and feedback of Teacher Fellows from the past three years of Fellowships.

- “Every meeting with this group of forward thinkers has energized me. The muck of being at school and dealing with all of the variables tends to weigh on me, but knowing that I was doing something worthwhile really meant a lot. Also, seeing how others react to the work after spotlighting was fantastic. Being part of this group really changed how I see myself as an educator.”

- “How impactful a sense of community is. Being part of a group that both supports and challenges me is vital for my continued growth. The support from Rob and this group has been invaluable as I implement vibrant learning and continue to challenge my students.”
- “I have learned SO much!! Most importantly, I have learned that students desire vibrant learning experiences and they sadly may not be getting these opportunities. I am eager to continue to plan for these experiences within my classroom and share with others!”
- “I have learned a ton. This was my first year in this particular job so I was kinda scattered but I felt like using this group helped me to focus. My planning and ideas were big but through this process I felt like it helped me to narrow. To focus on what was important. To redefine what success looks and feels like. Education is a daunting task and I learned a lot related to perspective, positivism, collaboration with like minded individuals on what makes quality instruction. This group has been so empowering. Learning to give and receive grace on lessons that flop and lessons that go well.”
- “Go Deeper: I’ve always been the one in my school to try new things and take risks. When the district moved in this direction there was a lot of push back from teachers, specifically in my building. If we have good test-scores why do we need to change things? Through this experience it makes me want to advocate for these changes in the way we teach and the way kids learn even more. I want to have conversations with those reluctant teachers and give them the supports I’ve experienced in this group so they are more willing to go deeper. I wish all teachers in Kentucky could have this experience because it would change their teaching forever.”



Pricing

The SPARK Fellowship is priced at \$800/teacher for a minimum of 10 teachers and a maximum of 20 teachers per Fellowship cohort.

Contact & Referrals

To bring the SPARK Fellowship to your school or district, or to learn more:

Dr. Rob Collins, Ed.D. | Founder & Chief Facilitator

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