

# JOSHUA DWYER MPP, MSJ



NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP | PUBLIC POLICY | GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dynamic nonprofit executive with over a decade of leadership in education policy, advocacy, and government affairs, driving legislative wins like the \$100M Invest in Kids Act and raising \$750K+ in grants. Expertise in policy research, policy design, strategic planning, coalition building, and policy implementation to advance educational opportunity.

## EXPERIENCE

### Principal

2019-Present

Dwyer Strategies LLC

- Provided policy research, policy design, governments affairs, and coalition building consulting for multiple organizations

### Founder & CEO

2020-2025

The Excellence Project

- Directed all development, compliance, research, policy, and government affairs work for the organization
- Wrote and published "Illinois' Lost Einsteins" report, which estimated the number of unidentified gifted students in Illinois and explained reasons for disparities in gifted identification
- Introduced and lobbied for two bills - one which provides universal screening grants to districts to identify gifted students and another that provides scholarships to students for out-of-school academic enrichment activities
- Fundraised over \$750,000 in grants and donations

### Public Policy and Government Affairs Director

2014-2019

Empower Illinois

- Directed all policy and government affairs work for the organization
- Hired and managed multiple policy and government affairs employees, as well as contract lobbyists
- Wrote and lobbied for multiple bills that became law, including, but not limited to a \$100 million tax credit scholarship program
- Researched and produced in-depth policy reports, including a report on gifted identification disparities and a report on the lack of availability of acceleration policies in Illinois
- Spoke publicly to external audiences, including the media, grassroots advocates, and legislative committees
- Conducted outreach to other organizations to have them cosponsor reports and advocate for bills

## ACHIEVEMENTS

2023

Introduced Equal Opportunity Education Account Act

2019

Illinois Virtual Course Catalog created

2017

Passed Accelerated Placement Act  
Passed Invest in Kids Act

2016

Passed Teacher Tax Credit  
Passed Untapped Potential Act

2015

Passed Course Access Act

## EXPERTISE

Federal Education Tax Credit

Education Choice

Education Funding Reform

Academic Enrichment

Specialized Populations

Microgrants

New Education Models

Course Availability

Reading and Math Instruction

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## EXPERIENCE

### Director of Education Reform 2012-2014

Illinois Policy Institute

- Directed all education policy work for the organization
- Wrote and lobbied for legislation promoting education finance reform and digital learning
- Researched and produced in-depth policy reports

### Adjunct Professor, Public Policy 2010-2012

Governors State University

- Developed curriculum and taught Master's level courses in public policy and law

### Program Manager, Advocacy and Outreach 2009

One Million Degrees

- Created and managed communication materials and activities for the organization

### Middle/Upper School Social Studies Teacher 2004-2006

Elgin Academy

- Developed curriculum and taught middle and high school courses

## SKILLS

Research  
Policy Design & Strategy  
Lobbying & Negotiation  
Coalition Building  
Rule Making & Regulatory  
Project Management  
Curriculum Design

## EDUCATION

### Northwestern University

Master of Journalism

2012

### University of Chicago

Master of Public Policy

2009

### University of Vermont

Bachelor of Arts, Phi Beta Kappa

2004

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

"Lost Einsteins: How Illinois fails to identify too many of its brightest minds."

"Accelerate Illinois: Matching student placement in courses with their capacity to learn."

"Untapped Potential: Gifted demographic disparities in Illinois' largest school districts."

"Every Student Succeeds Act: Gifted Education Policy Brief"

"Trapped in Chicago's Worst Schools: Education Outcomes in Chicago's Lowest-Performing Public Schools"

FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS, FULL REPORTS, MEDIA, SAMPLES OF LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY, AND MORE, VISIT [JOSHUADWYER.COM](http://JOSHUADWYER.COM)

