

JAKE STEEL

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EDUCATION

Harvard University — Doctorate in Educational Leadership (EdLD)
Aug 2020 – May 2023

Johns Hopkins University — Master of Science in Education
Jan 2015 – Dec 2016

Brigham Young University–Idaho — Bachelor of Science in Communications
Minor: Political Science
Jan 2005 – Apr 2012

Brigham Young University–Jerusalem (Jerusalem Center) — Additional Academic Studies
Aug 2009 – Dec 2009

LEADERSHIP, POLICY & POLITICS

Kansas State Department of Education

Director – Strategy and Operational Alignment

May 2023 – Present

- Advise the Kansas Commissioner of Education and executive leadership on statewide strategy, policy alignment, and high-impact initiatives.
- Secured ~\$26 million in federal ESSER funds by directly engaging and strategically pressing the U.S. Department of Education to release previously delayed allocations.
- Recaptured \$4.3 million in unused contractual funds and brokered agreements expanding access to LETRS professional learning, resulting in 4,000+ additional teacher licenses statewide.
- Designed and led a national strategy alongside ~30 state commissioners to break a 15-year federal stalemate with the U.S. Department of Defense, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding enabling states to access military enlistment data and more accurately identify and support students entering military service.
- Advanced an innovative statewide assessment pilot designed to transform student measurement and accountability. The proposed model delivers deeper instructional feedback to teachers, parents, and districts while exceeding state and federal accountability requirements.
- Selected by the Commissioner to lead a comprehensive agency-wide evaluation. Conducted listening sessions across all divisions, identifying organizational strengths, structural inefficiencies, and reorganization opportunities to improve coherence, focus, and operational effectiveness.

U.S. Department of Education (Washington, DC)

Senior Policy Advisor – Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD)

Aug 2018 – Sept 2020

- Senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary on K–12 education policy.
- Managed student-centered funding pilots and the discretionary grant peer review process.
- Coordinated interagency agreements, budgets, grants, and policy proposals aligned with the Secretary's priorities and Administration agenda.

Deputy Director – Office of Educational Technology

May 2019 – Sept 2020

- Managed daily operations, growth, and strategic vision of the office, including stewardship of \$5M+ in federal funds focused on emerging technologies in education.
- Led major initiatives including the National Education Technology Plan, personalized professional development models, blockchain applications in education, broadband access expansion, student data privacy resources, and COVID response efforts.

The White House (Washington, DC)

White House Fellow – Domestic Policy Council

Aug 2017 – Aug 2018

- Advisor on Pre-K through higher education policy; led policy development and interagency working groups.
- Co-planned the largest State–Federal STEM summit, engaging leaders from all states, territories, and tribal nations as part of a five-year national STEM strategy.
- Led Native education initiatives and contributed to the Higher Education Reauthorization Principles and the 477 Memorandum of Agreement.

Romney for President Campaign (Boston, MA)

Political Swing-State Coordinator – Ohio & New Mexico

Dec 2011 – Dec 2012

- Liaison between national headquarters and battleground state operations.
- Coordinated in-state voter contact strategy and staffing.
- Analyzed and compiled national political strategy materials, including vice-presidential briefing documents.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harvard Kennedy School (Cambridge, MA)

Course Assistant – DPI 321: Modern American Political Campaigns

Jan 2022 – Present

- Support course design, instruction, and evaluation alongside Scott Jennings and Mark Gearan.
- Coordinate and schedule national political, policy, and business leaders as guest speakers.

Harvard Graduate School of Education (Cambridge, MA)

Teaching Fellow – EPA 101: Politics and Education Policy

Aug 2021 – Dec 2021

- Supported Professor Marty West in course instruction and academic leadership.
- Taught modules on higher education policy and political analysis.
- Advised students on academic writing, policy memos, and strategic analysis.
- Managed hybrid instruction for 130+ students.

John Marshall Mid-High School (Oklahoma City, OK)

Mathematics Educator

Aug 2014 – Jul 2017

- Taught Algebra to 300+ students (grades 7–12).

- Raised state exam pass rate to 68% — highest in five years, improving more than 30 percentage points year-over-year.
- Developed a cloud-based student growth tracker; 99% of students improved achievement bands.
- Contributed to raising the school's state accountability grade from F to C.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Religious Instructor

Aug 2016 – Jun 2017

- Taught college institute courses in ancient and modern church history.
- Taught high school seminary courses in New Testament studies.

ADVISORY & CONSULTANCY

Salem Public Schools (Salem, MA)

Superintendent Intern

Sept 2021 – Jun 2022

- Supported superintendent and cabinet in district planning and leadership operations.
- Led strategic planning, professional learning initiatives, leadership evaluation, and community engagement efforts.

The Learning Accelerator

Consultant

Jan 2022 – Mar 2022

- Advised Chief of Staff on virtual and blended learning strategy.
- Reviewed national legislation related to virtual learning; created comparative database of trends, best practices, and policy gaps.

Learner-Centered Collaborative (San Francisco, CA)

Advisor to Chief Executive Officer

May 2021 – Sept 2021

- Advised executive team on organizational growth strategy and state-level expansion.
- Designed and authored state and district grant proposals focused on learner-centered system transformation.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Bishop, Lake Shawnee Ward

Mar 2024 – Present

Boy Scouts of America

Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 85

Feb 2014 – Aug 2016

John Marshall Mid-High School

Mathematics Department Chair; Campus Instructional Leadership Team; 1:1 Technology

Advisory Committee; Faculty Advisory Committee

Aug 2014 – Jul 2017

Johns Hopkins University

Recruitment Fellow
Jan 2016 – Jul 2017

Teach For America

Corps Member & Alumni Advisory Board Member
Jan 2015 – Jul 2017

CERTIFICATIONS

LETRS for Administrators Certificate (Anticipated March 2026)
Kansas State Department of Education

Initial District Leadership License (April 2025)
Kansas State Department of Education

Professional Teacher License - Biology and General Mathematics (April 2025)
Kansas State Department of Education

Superintendency Licensure (July 2023)
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Leading People (Issued Mar 2021)
Joint Certificate — Harvard Graduate School of Education & Harvard Business School

Leading Change: School Management and Leadership (Issued Nov 2020)
Joint Certificate — Harvard Graduate School of Education & Harvard Business School

Secondary Teaching Certificate: Science and Mathematics
Oklahoma Department of Education
Aug 2014 – Jul 2017

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Walton Family Foundation Fellow
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Aug 2020 – Present

The White House Fellowship
The White House
Aug 2017 – Aug 2018

Community Leadership and Commitment Award
Johns Hopkins University
Dec 2016