

CHARTER NETWORK ACCELERATOR



To increase the number of top-quality seats in their districts, cities across the country are actively seeking strong Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) to open additional schools. Unfortunately, there are still too few high-performing CMOs with the capacity to open new schools at the rate needed. To help meet this growing demand—and dramatically increase the life opportunities available to underserved students — Achievement First, in partnership with YES Prep and Aspire Public Schools, launched the Charter Network Accelerator in 2014.

The Charter Network Accelerator is an intensive cohort-based training program that supports the senior leadership teams of CMOs in designing, strengthening and scaling their organizations. By training leadership teams and creating an open source environment in which to share tools and strategies, we aim to accelerate the growth and success of CMOs across the country—dramatically increasing the number of top-quality seats for students—with a specific focus on increasing the number of prominent, high-performing CMOs lead by people of color.

COHORT SELECTION

The Charter Network Accelerator is comprised of a cohort of 8-10 networks. The program team looks for candidates who have: a strong track record of success with students from underserved populations, the capacity to expand, and a CEO who is a “learner-leader” with an unyielding drive to improve outcomes for students.

Learn more and see previous cohorts at achievementfirst.org.

PROGRAM LEARNING COMPONENTS

Cohort Workshops: The CEO and senior network instructional leader attend 5-6 workshops over 18 months and additional network leaders may join for relevant sessions.

Critical Friends Visits: Each network hosts a team of experts for a two-day visit that provides the network with individualized feedback, and the CEO participates in two visits for other networks.

Targeted Consulting: We connect network leaders to expert advisors from other charter leaders to provide consulting on targeted topics and challenges.

Executive Coaching: CEOs receive coaching on individual learning goals that will help them become more effective leaders.

Access to Resources: Networks have access to a website that curates hundreds of strong resources from high-performing CMOs.

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

The program focuses on helping leaders:

- Align their networks to a college-ready bar
- Define and strengthen their instructional model, as well as their operational and external-facing models
- Improve the organization’s effectiveness, personal leadership, organizational culture and network strategy

Charter Network

