**Director of Extended Learning**

**Start Date:** August 2014, but flexible  
**Team:** Team Special Services  
**Location:** Brooklyn, NY; New Haven, CT; or Providence, RI preferred, but flexible

**About Achievement First**

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 charter school management organization, will operate 29 public charter schools in Brooklyn, Connecticut and Rhode Island for the 2014-15 school year. The mission of Achievement First is to close the achievement gap and deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all children, regardless of race or economic status. Achievement First currently educates more than 8,100 students in historically underserved and underserved neighborhoods, with over 90% of our students identifying as Black and Latino. With its college-preparatory focus, the Achievement First approach is attaining breakthrough academic gains throughout the network. Beyond our students and schools, Achievement First is an engaged and prominent partner in the larger conversation about how to improve public education and student achievement in our country.

Achievement First’s approach to teaching and learning enables every student to succeed at the highest levels. This involves:

- Recruiting and developing successful teachers and school leaders and empowering them to use student data to strategically drive instruction;
- Creating a joyful school culture where it is “cool to be smart” that emphasizes character education and focuses students on college;
- Providing students with more time on task and intense intervention when they are struggling so that no child falls through the cracks.

For more information about Achievement First’s mission, approach, schools and team, please visit our website at [www.achievementfirst.org](http://www.achievementfirst.org).

**Summary**

Even within the achievement gap, there is an achievement gap. Students who enter Achievement First schools reading years behind grade level must make ambitious growth in order to close the gap between them and their higher performing peers in order to go to and through college. **In order to make this aggressive growth a reality, we recognize that we must maximize every learning opportunity, which includes leveraging traditionally underutilized time (after school, Saturdays, summers) and maximizing innovative technologies.**

The ideal Director of Extended Learning will analyze the performance of students currently reading in the bottom quartile and, through research and rigorous data analysis, design and operationalize programming with an emphasis on maximizing underutilized time and technology. This is an inaugural role and the Director of Extended Learning will be responsible for partnering closely with the current Director of Digital Learning.

**Responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

- **Research and Data Analysis**
  - Apply deep literacy knowledge to analyze data to identify groups of students that are underperforming and uncover the multiple and complex reasons why they are underperforming

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• Research the most effective ways to close the gap within the gap (with a focus on maximizing underutilized time and leveraging technology)
• Collaborate with network and school leaders to deeply recognize and appreciate the varied experiences of students who are performing in the bottom quartile

**o Program Design**
• Design programming to maximize underutilized time
• Collaborate with schools to pilot programming
• Pilot trainings with a select number of schools and design a roll out plan for the larger network
• Conceptualize systems and structures to measure program efficacy and fidelity
• Document learnings from pilots and develop guidance to scale effective pilots

**o Program Implementation**
• Plan for and oversee operationalizing programming
• Design and execute training for programming
• Design and execute systems for school leaders to oversee the efficacy of programming
• Oversee the multiyear expansion of the strategy across all 29 schools

**o Cultivate Excellence: Collaborate to Develop Bright Spots**
• Partner with a subset of schools to develop exemplars from which all schools will learn
• Build the capacity of school leaders through coaching and development aligned with cultivation of network exemplars

**o Core Values: Model AF Core Values including Creating a Network of Schools rooted in Excellence for ALL Children**

**Skills and Characteristics**
• A deep conviction that all students can achieve at high levels
• Deep knowledge of literacy development
• Strong research and data analysis skills
• Strong communication skills
• Strong project management skills
• Maturity, humility, strong work ethic, sense of humor and roll-up-my-sleeves attitude

**Educational Background and Work Experience**
• Bachelor’s degree from a competitive college or university
• At least four years of highly effective teaching experience demonstrating a strong track record of reading gains or four years of experience working in the field of education
• Master’s degree that includes quantitative coursework (i.e. public policy, business, some educational programs)
• At least two years in leadership (school, organization, etc.) overseeing program design or implementation

This position will require travel and candidates must be willing to work nights and weekends when necessary.

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To Apply:
Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to:
   Gillette Eckler
   gilletteeckler@achievementfirst.org

Please visit the Achievement First careers site at http://www.achievementfirst.org/careers/.
Achievement First is an equal opportunity employer and an organization that values diversity. People from all diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. Spanish language proficiency is a plus.
You can learn more about diversity at Achievement First here: http://www.achievementfirst.org/about-us/diversity/.

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