Teaching at an Achievement First High School
Our mission is to see 100% of our students GRADUATE, not just accepted into, college. To this end, our personal mission right now is to find the most amazing educators to join our team. This is an incredibly unique role, with each of our teachers writing and implementing a true nine to 12 college-preparatory curriculum. Each curricular area plays a crucial role in fulfilling our mission. Through each subject area, students will empower themselves with the critical thinking skills that will help them tackle complex issues in their local community, their country and the world at large.

With the opening of our high schools, Achievement First has taken the final step in creating a K-12 educational charter network in New York and Connecticut.

Our Brooklyn high school moved into a new, 225,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility in 2010. This new building includes tech-ready classrooms, small group instruction rooms, a large tech-ready library, eight full science labs, four full computer labs, art studios, dance studios and a playing field on the roof.

Help Achievement First
BUILD A NATIONAL MODEL OF HIGH SCHOOL EXCELLENCE

What we look for in a Teacher

✓ One-hundred percent commitment to the belief that ALL students can succeed and go to top colleges.
✓ Reflective and hungry for feedback; an eagerness to learn.
✓ Passion for subject areas (we are all math geeks, science geeks, etc.).
✓ Passion for character education.
✓ Commitment to acting as a school teacher, not just a classroom teacher.
✓ Strong, strong, strong classroom management skills.

One-hundred percent of students accepted into four-year competitive colleges. This is the urgent mission of Achievement First. Our academic curriculum is designed to push students to meet the rigor of college-level coursework head-on, and our character curriculum is designed to ensure that our students become empowered and thoughtful young adults who contribute to their communities.
College Preparatory Classes

✓ Students take rigorous classes that far exceed state requirements: our students will graduate having taken four years of reading, writing, math, science and history, an average of three AP courses, on-site college courses, and the opportunity to earn over 18 college credits.

✓ Classes are designed around the Socratic seminar cycle where students annotate sophisticated text, use evidence to support their positions in seminar discussions and write college-level papers.

✓ Every student takes a college skills seminar where they learn the skills they need for success, including personal organization, resume writing and public speaking.

Beyond the Classroom

✓ Our students explore and discover their passions through a diverse array of enrichment and summer programs. Every student participates in at least two extracurricular activities each year, including Honor Council, Student Government, Drama Club, Debate, myriad arts offerings and a range of athletics.

College for ALL

✓ One-hundred percent of our students apply to a four-year college, and 100% of our graduates are admitted.

✓ We support students with small group instruction, interventions and a mandated “Homework Club.” Grade-level teams meet on a regular basis to tailor support mechanisms to the particular needs of individual students.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

We Know Our Students … and Help Them Become Their Best Selves

✓ High Expectations: Our team unites around a common vision of excellence and vigilantly upholds consistent behavioral expectations to ensure scholarly and focused classrooms.

✓ Our school is divided into small advisories (~12 students) where all students receive the academic and character coaching they need to succeed in high school, college and beyond.

✓ Club time, college trips and advisor/advisee lunches ensure that there are multiple ways for students to connect with adults at school outside of the classroom.

✓ Students and families are kept informed of grades and progress through progress report nights, frequent calls home by teachers and advisors, a monthly newsletter for families, and a monthly parent leadership council meeting.

Seminars allow me to step outside the box and form my own opinion and not agree with everything because someone says it’s right. I am not a robot who just takes in what the teacher tells me; I think for myself.

Denzel Smith, Senior

Achievement First is beyond what I could possibly imagine. The expectations are so high — for both academics and character. I’m really pushed to do my best here.

Romaine Allison, Freshman
At Achievement First, we’re obsessed with great instruction. We have redefined professional development from isolated, “drive-by” sessions to frequent support by an instructional coach. Frequent classroom observations, planning meetings and weekly coaching sessions. Common assessments and shared lesson resources. Principals and deans serve as instructional leaders.

Weekly professional development. Visits to other high-performing schools. School-wide retreats. Achievement First network-wide professional development and content days. New Staff Training to make sure that everyone is 100% prepared for the first day of class. External professional development with the College Board, Great Books and much more.

Resources include unlimited copies, your own laptop, business cards and instructional supplies (docu-projectors, poster makers, SMARTboards and more). Curricular supplies (you don’t have to rely on kitchen chemistry – we’ll order the lab supplies). Achievement First’s Athena data platform means that you can conduct deep data analysis resulting in great unit and lesson plans. First class support for your curriculum and assessment development.

We have a dream team of teachers. We talk about our classes with passion with one another and really support the instruction happening in each room.

Chris Bostock, Dean of Students & History Teacher
Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats