



R H O D E I S L A N D  
MAYORAL ACADEMIES

Contact: Mel Ochoa; (347) 675-8575; melochoa@achievementfirst.org

**ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE MAYORAL ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROVIDENCE MAYOR ANGEL TAVERAS APPROVE MORGAN CARTER AS FOUNDING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

February 12, 2013 – PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Achievement First, a high-performing network of 22 non-profit, college-preparatory public charter schools in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island, nominated for consideration, and the Board of Directors approved, Morgan Carter as its founding school principal for Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy Elementary, opening in August 2013 with 88 kindergarten and 88 first-grade seats and adding an additional grade in each of the following years until it is a fully enrolled K-4 elementary school.

Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy has received more than 700 lottery enrollment forms from Providence, Cranston, Warwick and North Providence families interested in joining the inaugural kindergarten and first-grade classes, with less than two weeks remaining until its student recruitment deadline of February 22, 2013.

“I am excited to work in Providence with a team that is dedicated to student-centered learning. Our goal is to equip students with a college-focused education infused with community leadership projects that will teach them to honor their unique gifts and voices and those of their communities,” said Morgan Carter.

A graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle where she received an Education Teaching Endorsement, Principal Carter earned her master’s degree in Elementary Literacy and Mathematics from Walden University. She entered Achievement First as a founding teacher at Amistad Academy Elementary, eventually becoming its academic dean before joining Achievement First’s principal-in-residence program.

“I look forward to working with Ms. Carter to ensure that the Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy is a true community partner and resource for our students and families,” commented Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, chair of the Board of Directors for Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy.

All students will be admitted to Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy through a lottery that will include preferences for low-income families. Achievement First will serve all students, regardless of special needs, language or citizenship. There are no admission requirements or interviews, and there are no admission or tuition fees. The school will be located in Providence, but will also serve the communities of Cranston, Warwick and North Providence. Any and all age-appropriate students from those communities will be eligible for Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy.

## **About Achievement First**

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, economic status or zip code. With its college-preparatory focus, the Achievement First approach is attaining breakthrough academic gains throughout its network of 22 public charter schools. In the 2012-13 academic year, Achievement First is educating more than 7,000 students in historically low-performing and underserved neighborhoods in Connecticut and New York (with Rhode Island opening in August 2013).

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

- Providing students with more time on task and intense intervention when they are struggling so that no child falls through the cracks;
- 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.

For more information, please visit <http://www.AchievementFirst.org>.

## **About Rhode Island Mayoral Academies**

Rhode Island Mayoral Academies is a nonprofit organization supporting and overseeing the expansion of Mayoral Academies in Rhode Island. Mayoral Academies are public schools that are run by successful charter school operators and governed by mayor-led school boards.

For more information, please visit <http://www.MayoralAcademies.org>.

###