In the spring of 2014, Achievement First students advocated for a more well-rounded school day and broader elective opportunities. Now, the enrichment block occurs during the last thirty minutes of the school day. Most enrichments are led by faculty and change on trimesters that are aligned to the sports seasons.

ATHLETICS
Football (both co-op with Capital Prep)
Cross-Country
Boys & Girls Volleyball
Basketball (boys & girls)
Track & Field (both co-op)
Soccer (co-ed club)
Baseball (co-ed club)
Cheerleading
Step Squad
Visual Art
Yearbook

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES
A Capella Choir (co-ed)
Academic Quiz Bowl
Community Service & Volunteerism
Social Justice Action Club
Computer Programming
Mandarin Chinese
Poi Juggling Performance Art
Spoken Word & Poetry
Creative Writing
Student Government
Theater

Beyond Academics

Nationally, only 8% of low-income students graduate from four-year colleges within six years of high school graduation. With this in mind, AF Hartford High School supports college persistence and graduation by offering:

• Rigorous Coursework: Fostering true college readiness through our rigorous course of study rooted in key content, college-ready habits of mind, and a robust early college awareness and preparation program.

• Transition to College Course: Preparing all students for the often difficult transition to college by giving guidance during the matriculation process and enrolling all seniors in a course prior to graduation to address topics such as registering for classes and understanding the resources that campuses offer.

• College Success Counseling: Once seniors graduate, college counselors provide individualized support to graduates, contacting them regularly via phone and e-mail and through campus visits that help alumni connect directly to campus resources. Counselors build relationships with key faculty and staff at colleges to help our alumni make contact with “champions” on campus who will help them navigate complex campus systems and further the development of their self-advocacy skills.

School Overview
Achievement First (AF) Hartford High School is a college preparatory, public charter school located in Hartford, Connecticut. Our mission is to provide historically underserved students with a top-quality education that helps them develop the academic and character skills necessary to graduate from college and serve as the next generation of leaders in our community. AF Hartford High School’s approach includes an extended school day and year, a rigorous, college-preparatory course of study, SAT preparation, tutoring, intensive college counseling, explicit character education, and athletics and elective programs in a structured and supportive academic environment. The programming at AF Hartford High School is centered on the tenets of a rigorous, liberal arts education. Our instructional framework includes:

• Learning Through Discussion: Educating our students means more than giving them the knowledge and skills to realize their potential for discovery and independent thought. We judge our success on the authenticity of students’ thinking and their ability to communicate their thoughts. Seminars encourage an awakening of discovery and independent thought by teaching students to direct discussion without relying on a teacher to lead the way.

• The Power of Writing: We recognize that success in college and beyond demands strong writing skills. The writing assessments that stand at the core of our Humanities curriculum are designed to prepare students for the rigors of college-level writing. The interdisciplinary design of our writing curriculum provides the necessary space for students to explore ideas in great depth.

• Key Cognitive Skills: Our character development program is based on the work of Dr. Martin Seligman and Angela Duckworth, and teaches strengths rooted in key content, college-ready habits of mind, and a robust early college awareness and preparation program.

FACULTY

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School Contacts

Established in 2012

AfHartfordHighSchool.org

Af Hartford High serves students from historically underserved communities in Hartford, a city facing challenges including high rates of crime and entrenched, multi-generational poverty. The region also faces a pronounced racial achievement gap, a factor that contributes to Connecticut’s troubling status as the state with the largest achievement gap in the nation. Approximately 85% of AF Hartford High students will be first-generation college students.
A Focus on Core Subjects: An emphasis on core academic subjects: literature, composition, history, math and science. Students are required to earn four credits in each subject area in order to graduate.

Speaking and Listening: Each class has a Harkness Seminar component during which student groups practice active listening skills while developing and discussing in-depth responses to open-ended questions. These discussions are conducted by students with minimal intervention from the instructor.

In Writing and Research: In Composition, Pre-AP Seminar and AP Seminar, students prepare for college-level writing by publishing frequent, multi-draft academic essays and honing their ability to marshal evidence in support of a thesis to clearly articulate complex ideas. Students write at least six analytical essays each year with the support of focused instruction and intensive feedback at all stages of the writing process. Beginning in their sophomore year, students complete one major research paper each year in this course.

AP For All: Before graduation, scholars take two or more Advanced Placement courses and the vast majority of students take to or more AP courses. We believe that exposure to the most rigorous content available is an essential aspect of college preparation—86% of scholars enrolled in AP Courses take the AP exam for that course.

Pass Rate

Summer programs are crucial to AF Hartford High’s mission: they foster college persistence by pushing students beyond their comfort zones and helping them develop mindsets that ease the transition to colleges and universities. In these programs, students explore future opportunities and discover college life, equipping them to make informed college choices.

Summer Program Partners include:
- Amherst College
- Barnard College
- Brown University
- Carleton College
- Choate Rosemary Hall
- Cornell University
- Emory University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- The George Washington University
- The Hotchkiss School
- The Loomis Chaffee School
- Phillips Exeter Academy
- Smith College
- Susquehanna University
- The Taft School
- University of Connecticut
- University of Pennsylvania

AF Hartford High School does not rank its students. A grade distribution for the class of 2018 is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Freshman Year</th>
<th>Sophomore Year</th>
<th>Junior Year</th>
<th>Senior Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Literature I</td>
<td>World Literature</td>
<td>American Literature</td>
<td>AP Language and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>Composition I</td>
<td>Composition II</td>
<td>Composition III</td>
<td>AP Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Algebra I or Foundations of Algebra</td>
<td>Geometry or Algebra I</td>
<td>Algebra II w/ Pre-Calculus or Algebra II</td>
<td>AP Calculus or AP Statistics or Algebra II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>AP Biology or Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Pre-AP World History</td>
<td>AP World History or World History II</td>
<td>AP U.S. History or U.S. History</td>
<td>Government and Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Latin I</td>
<td>Latin II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>College Readiness I, Theater</td>
<td>Foundations of Leadership II, Physical Education</td>
<td>Foundations of Leadership II and SAT Preparation</td>
<td>Foundations of Leadership IV (College Transitions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Testing

AF Hartford High students also demonstrate their readiness for the rigors of college-level work through their performance on AP exams during their sophomore, junior and senior years.

The Hotchkiss School
The Loomis Chaffee School
Phillips Exeter Academy
Smith College
Susquehanna University
The Taft School
University of Connecticut
University of Pennsylvania

94% of the graduating class took at least one AP exam compared to 6% of African American students state-wide.