

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Achievement First (AF) Hartford High School is a college-preparatory, public charter school 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 as well as a rigorous, college-preparatory course of studies 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 multifaceted approach has resulted in Achievement First Hartford High School being named a gold medal school and ranked the third best high school in Connecticut by U.S. News & World Report. Our instructional framework includes:

- Learning Through Discussion:** Educating our students means encouraging them 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.
- AP Access for All:** Before graduation, students at AF Hartford High take two or more Advanced Placement courses. We believe that exposure to the most rigorous content available is an essential aspect of college preparation; 98% of scholars enrolled in AP courses take the AP exam for that course. Students can take the most rigorous classes offered through a non-discriminatory process. Those who do not opt into an AP-level class can access the rigor of the course alongside AP students, in the same classroom, but with differentiated coursework. Students build independence and college-ready skills in the AP Capstone series consisting of AP Seminar and AP Research.

STUDENT POPULATION

The Class of 2019 is the fourth graduating class.

Class of 2019 Student Enrollment.	48
Total Enrollment for 2018-19.	250
Graduation Rate.	99%
Average Daily Attendance.	96%
Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible.	100%
Hispanic/Latino.	16%
African-American.	83%
Asian-American.	1%
Male.	48%
Female.	52%

FACULTY

Teaching Faculty.	30
Administration.	8
Support Staff.	10
Faculty Holding Advanced Degrees.	45

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

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.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

CEEB CODE: 070297

Emily Banks	<i>Principal</i>	EmilyBanks@achievementfirst.org	860.695.6680
Brendan Callahan	<i>Academic Dean</i>	BrendanCallahan@achievementfirst.org	860.695.1969
Leah Weimerskirch	<i>Academic Dean</i>	LeahWeimerskirch@achievementfirst.org	860.695.1969
Eric D. Estelle	<i>Dean of College Services</i>	EricEstelle@achievementfirst.org	860.695.2052
Courtney Oben	<i>College Counselor</i>	CourtneyOben@achievementfirst.org	860.695.2052
Kaara Koplowitz	<i>College Counselor</i>	KaaraKoplowitz@achievementfirst.org	860.695.6669

ACADEMIC RIGOR

AF Hartford High's extended school day and year allow for additional instructional time. The extended academic day runs from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and the extended school year is approximately two weeks longer than that of area district schools. This additional time allows for the inclusion of a college readiness class, tutorial courses and an hour-long composition class that is distinct from literature class. The academic program also includes:

- 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:** All humanities courses have 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.
- 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 a minimum of 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.
- Key Cognitive Skills:** Our character development program is based on the work of Dr. Martin Seligman and Angela Duckworth and teaches strengths they have identified as leading to engaged, meaningful and purposeful lives. Our core values, which stem from this research, are Grit, Integrity, Empathy, Independence and Curiosity. Students receive regular feedback on their reflection of these core values through our school's merit system.

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.

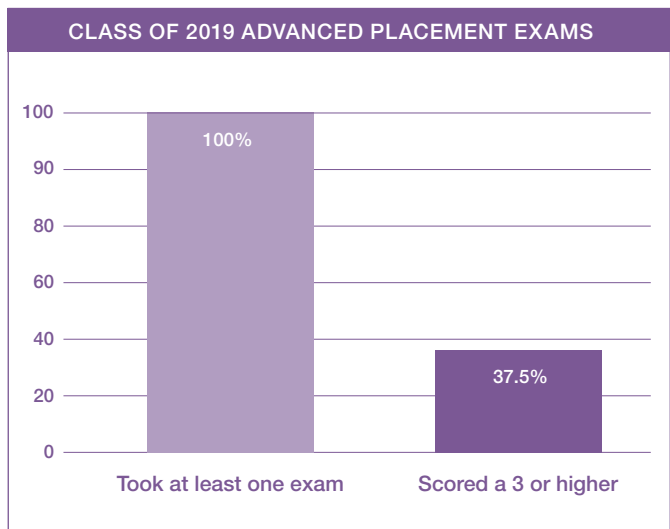
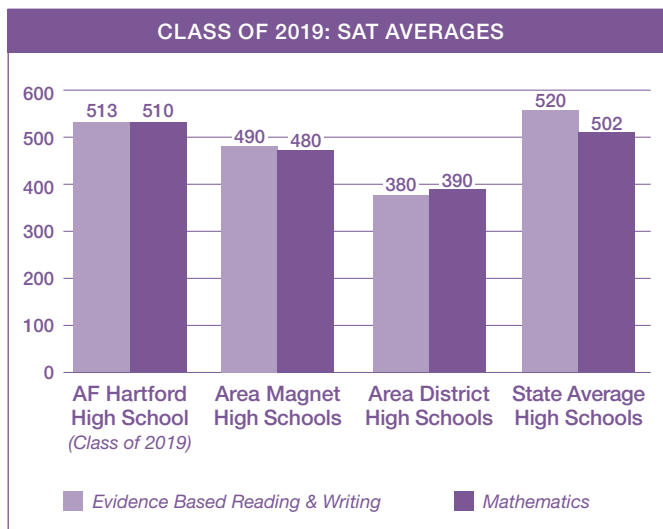
SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer programs are vital 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	The George Washington University
Barnard College	The Hotchkiss School
Brown University	The Loomis Chaffee School
Carleton College	Phillips Exeter Academy
Choate Rosemary Hall	Smith College
Cornell University	Susquehanna University
Emory University	The Taft School
Franklin & Marshall College	University of Connecticut
	University of Pennsylvania

100% of the Class of 2019 completed at least one AP course and exam.



HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR GRADING

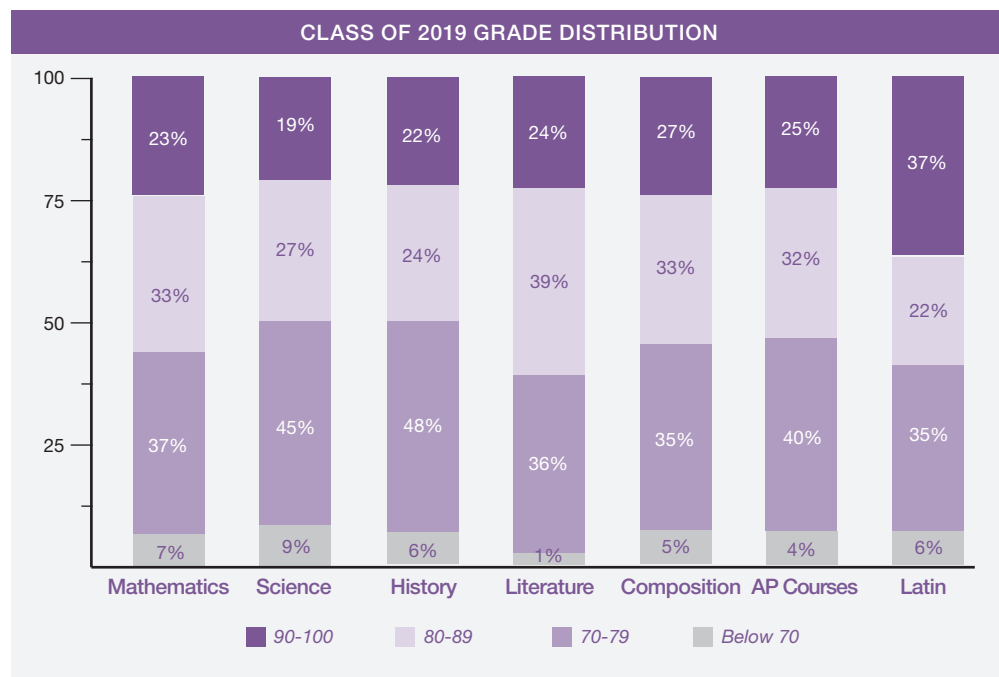
AF Hartford High School believes in the capability of its students, and seeks to eliminate the cycle of low-expectations for students of color too often seen in our society. All AF Hartford High School students engage in a rigorous course of study. Teachers grade on scoring criteria derived from analysis of AP rubrics and scoring guides as well as collaboration with other AP teachers and consultants. Students receive feedback on their work that is anchored in the capstone course in each subject area—AP Biology, AP Composition & Language, AP Seminar, AP Calculus, and AP United States History.

Each quarter, students take an interim assessment in each of their core courses. These exams are meant to predict future student performance on AP exams. While AF Hartford High School students may have overall lower GPAs than their area peers, this is not a reflection of their comparative academic proficiency; rather, it is a reflection of the high expectations to which they are held.

AF Hartford High School uses a 100-point grading scale with 70 as the minimum grade to pass a course. Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) includes a 10 point increase for each AP course taken.

GRADING SCALE		
Letter/ Numeric Grade	Standard Scale:	AP Scale:
A+ (97-100)	4.33	5.33
A (93-96)	4.00	5.00
A- (90-92)	3.67	4.67
B+ (87-89)	3.33	4.33
B (83-86)	3.00	4.00
B- (80-82)	2.67	3.67
C+ (77-79)	2.33	3.33
C (73-76)	2.00	3.00
C- (70-72)	1.67	2.67
F (67-69)	1.33	2.33
F (63-66)	1.00	2.00
F (60-62)	0.67	1.67
F (0-59)	0.00	1.33-0

AF Hartford High School does not rank its students. A grade distribution for the class of 2019 is below:



AF HARTFORD HIGH CLASS OF 2019 COURSE OF STUDIES				
Subject	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Literature	Literature I	World Literature	AP English Literature & Composition	AP English Language or English Lit
Composition	Composition I	Pre-AP Seminar	AP Seminar	AP Research
Math	Algebra I or Foundations of Algebra	Geometry	Algebra II w/ Pre-Calculus or Algebra II	AP Calculus or AP Statistics or Intro to College Mathematics
Science	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	AP Biology or Biology II
Social Studies	Pre-AP World History	AP World History or World History II	AP U.S. History or U.S. History	AP US Government and Politics or Government
Foreign Language	n/a	n/a	Latin I	Latin II
Electives	Foundations of Leadership I, Theater	Foundations of Leadership II, Physical Education	Foundations of Leadership III, SAT Preparation	Foundations of Leadership IV (includes College Transitions)

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATION

(The Classes of 2016 - 2018)

Adelphi University
Agnes Scott College
Albany State University
Albertus Magnus College
Albright College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
American International College
Babson College
Barry University
Bates College
Bay Path University
Beloit College
Bentley University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
University of Bridgeport
Brooklyn College of the CUNY
Capital Community College
Case Western Reserve University
Central Connecticut State University
Centre College
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Connecticut College
University of Connecticut - Storrs
University of Connecticut - Greater Hartford Campus
University of Connecticut - Stamford Campus
Cornell College
Culver-Stockton College
Curry College
Davidson College
Dean College
Delaware State University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Earlham College
Eastern Connecticut State University
Elizabethtown College
Elmira College
Elms College
Elon University
Emory University
Fairfield University
Florida Southern College
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin and Pierce University
The George Washington University
Goodwin College
Goucher College
Guilford College
Hamilton College- NY
Hampshire College
University of Hartford
Hartwick College
Hofstra University
University of Houston, Downtown
Howard University
Husson University
Ithaca College
Johnson and Wales University (Providence)
Juniata College
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lewis and Clark College
Long Island University, Brooklyn
Lyoming College
Manchester Community College

Manhattanville College
Marlboro College
University of Massachusetts, Darnouth
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
McDaniel College
Mercy College
Merrimack College
Miami University, Ohio
University of Michigan, Dearborn
Mitchell College
Morgan State University
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Saint Mary College
New England College
University of New Hampshire at Durham
University of New Haven
Nichols College
Norfolk State University
Northeastern University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Old Dominion University
Olin College of Engineering
Oral Roberts University
Pace University, New York City
University of Pennsylvania
Providence College
Purchase College (SUNY)
Quinnipiac University
Regis College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Richmond
Rivier University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Rochester
Roger Williams University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
University of Saint Joseph
Saint Peter's University
Salve Regina University
Seton Hall University
Siena College
Simmons University
Smith College
Southern Connecticut State University
Southern New Hampshire University
Spelman College
Springfield College
St. John's University
St. Lawrence University
St. Olaf College
Stevenson University - Owning Mills
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University
The University of Tampa
Temple University
University of Tennessee, Martin
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tuskegee University
Ursinus College
Utica College
Villanova University
Virginia State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
Wheaton College (MA)
The College of Wooster
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

BEYOND ACADEMICS

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 athletics seasons.

ATHLETICS

Football (in co-op with
Capital Prep)
Cross-Country
(boys & girls)
Volleyball (girls)
Basketball (boys & girls)
Track (boys & girls)
Soccer (co-ed club)
Baseball (co-ed club)
Yoga & Pilates
Cheerleading
Step Squad

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

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

COLLEGE PERSISTENCE SUPPORT

Nationally, only 9% 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 counseling 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.