



Respect - Enthusiasm - Achievement - Citizenship - Hard Work  
April 2011

## Follow Us Online



## Use Our Teaching Resources



### Check Out Our New High School Writing Rubric

AF high schools have created a rigorous writing rubric to ensure that all scholars write at the college level by the end of 12th grade so that they have the skills they need for success in college.

Understanding that the writing process is the most significant lever in terms of college readiness and success, a group of teachers from our two high schools researched writing requirements and standards at top high schools and colleges from around the country. They defined "writing excellence" at AF and developed a rubric for grades 9 through 12, focusing on argument, evidence, language and process. In each grade, students complete a multi-draft DBQ history essay and a literary essay every six weeks. Teachers then meet to compare student essays to the rubric and ensure that everyone assesses writing with the same sharpened instructional eye.

Check out the rubric [here](#) and protocols for looking at student work [here](#), and then see our [instructional resources](#) page for hundreds of other resources from our schools.

## Join a Virtual Information Session

### School Spotlight



For the second year in a row, ALL Amistad-Elm City High seniors have been accepted into four-year colleges and universities. Congrats Class of 2011!

The Mayor of Danbury, Connecticut, along with several prominent state legislators, recently visited AF's nationally acclaimed flagship school, Amistad Academy Middle, with hopes of opening a school with a similar model in the near future. Read about his visit [here](#).

### Featured Opportunity

#### '11-'12 Bridgeport Middle School Teaching Positions

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Middle School was named a "Success Story" by ConnCAN for its continued trend of significantly raising student achievement. The story continues in our inaugural Bridgeport school with varied professional development for teachers, a strong school culture, character education, and a sense of team and family. We are looking for teachers who are invested in creating opportunities and opening doors for our scholars in Bridgeport.

Learn more about this great opportunity [here](#)

Start Date:



Can't make it to one of our in-person events? Join us for a Virtual Information Session hosted by an Achievement First talent recruiter and a current teacher or school leader. We will discuss:

- Achievement First's history, mission and core values
- Training and professional development opportunities
- Various opportunities to join our team for the 2011-12 school year
- Application process and qualities of a successful candidate

#### **Starting Your School Leadership Career with Achievement First**

*April 7, 2011; 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT*

[RSVP Here](#)

*May 3, 2011; 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT*

[RSVP Here](#)

#### **Teaching Opportunities with Achievement First**

*April 11, 2011; 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT*

[RSVP Here](#)

*April 26, 2011; 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT*

[RSVP Here](#)

#### **Network Support Opportunities with Achievement First**

*April 12, 2011; 7:30-8:30 p.m. EDT*

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Apply to Work in a School



#### **Join Achievement First as a High School Science Teacher**

STEM education is in the national education spotlight, and Achievement First scholars are heeding the call in a big way. Our high school scholars are diligently preparing for state and AP exams and

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## Teach For America Alumni Opportunity

### **Calling ALL TFA Sue Lehmann Regional Finalists**

Teach For America corps members and alumni play an integral part in Achievement First's growing network of high-performing, college-preparatory public charter schools in NY and CT. More than 300 TFA corps members and alumni are currently teaching in our 19 academies and over 50% of our school leaders are TFA alumni. We are offering a \$1000 bonus for any Sue Lehmann Regional Finalist who joins the Achievement First team and family for the 2011-12 school year. [Apply online!](#)

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## Network Support Featured Opportunity

### **Director of Impact Strategy**

**Start Date:** Immediate

The Director of Impact Strategy will build upon and institutionalize the cutting-edge data strategy used at AF to drive instructional improvement in classrooms. We are seeking candidates who have experience in advising organizational leaders on how to understand, analyze and act on essential data to drive continuous improvement and higher levels of student outcomes. This role provides an exciting opportunity for someone with a deep background in data-driven decision making and strong analytic skills to contribute to the continued growth and success of Achievement First.

*We are always looking for talented individuals to join our Network Support team. View current Achievement First Network Support opportunities [here](#).*

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need the dedication and focused direction of strong teachers skilled in biology, chemistry and physics.

*"Being part of team science with AF is awesome! I love working with our scholars and helping them develop their natural curiosity about the world around them. It's immensely rewarding to see a student challenge his or her own perspective on how the physical world works. Not only do I enjoy the opportunity to develop and deliver engaging instruction to our scholars, but I am also incredibly grateful to work with such an exceptionally talented and thoughtful team of instructors. Working on this team has definitely improved my teaching and continues to do so." Matt Sparks, Physical Science & Chemistry Teacher at Amistad-Elm City High School*

Contact us [here](#) if you are interested in learning more about joining the Achievement First team and family.

## Visit Achievement First on the Road



Our team has been flying around the country in search of the best teachers. Below are the cities we'll be visiting this month; please [e-mail](#) us to learn more.

### Northeast Region

- April 6 - NEAG School of Education Career Fair, Storrs, CT
- April 9 - CREC Minority Teacher Career Fair, Hartford, CT
- April 19 - RICE Career Fair, Bristol, RI
- April 20 - MERC Career Fair, Boston, MA

### Outside the Northeast Region

- April 14 - Ann Arbor, MI
- April 19 - Washington, DC

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## Cheer of the Month



This month features Taylor Delhagen's 10th-grade AF Brooklyn High School scholars. Taylor and his students are in the midst of an intense global history and geography Regents Exam review. Taylor created these raps and songs to help this scholars recall information.

## Our Mission

The mission of Achievement First is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children. We believe that all children, regardless of race or economic status, can succeed if they have access to a great education.

Achievement First schools will provide all of our students with the academic and character skills they need to graduate from top colleges, to succeed in a competitive world and to serve as the next generation of leaders in our communities.

