



## Virtual Professional Development

We are hosting two virtual PD opportunities this month and one in February. Check them out below.

### Precise Directions

This session will focus on the meaning of "positive framing" and how it supports teachers' capacity to be "warm-demanding." Participants will practice executing two elements of the strong voice technique and prepare to implement it in their classrooms immediately.

[Register](#) by January 18 to receive materials by January 21.

### Taxonomy Drills

At Achievement First, practice and feedback are at the core of our coaching model. In this "train the trainer" session for current school leaders, we will share essential taxonomy moves we believe all teachers must master and techniques coaches should look for when observing classrooms. The session will also include a protocol to use in your next staff professional development session for engaging teachers to practice these moves.

[Register](#) by January 18 to receive materials by January 21.

### College Ready Bar I & II - Middle School Math

This session will focus on key shifts in standards and their impact on planning and classes. Participants will discern how concepts, skills and knowledge, and cognitive demands progress across a grade band and practice comparing student work.

[Register](#) by February 15 to receive materials by February 18.

## Use Our Teaching Resources

We know that the climb up the mountain to college begins as soon as students step through our schools' doors, and it's up to us to get them started off on the right foot. Use these elementary school resources to hold even your youngest

### Follow Us Online



### Leadership Corner



Join us for a two-day professional development event that will help you hone your skills as a school leader and get the "inside scoop" on leadership at Achievement First. Learn more about our **School Leader Immersion Program** and apply [here](#).

### Meet Us on the Road

Throughout the year, our team visits cities across the country in search of teachers and school leaders who are passionate about creating high-quality experiences for urban students. Below are cities where we'll attend events soon; please email us at [events@achievementfirst.org](mailto:events@achievementfirst.org) to learn more.

**January 10** - Kyle, SD

**January 10** - Bridgeport, CT

**January 24** - Boston, MA

**February 19** - Charlotte, NC

**February 28** - New York, NY

**March 11** - New York, NY

students to an incredibly high bar throughout the year.

#### **Reading & Writing:**

Determine which texts you'll use throughout the year in your kindergarten and first-grade classrooms using this [text list](#).

Plan your "think, read and discuss" writing lessons using these scope and sequences for [kindergarten](#), [first grade](#) and [second grade](#).

#### **Math:**

Align your year-long math plan with the Common Core using these scope and sequences for [kindergarten](#) and [third grade](#).

Work through story problems with your students using this [guide](#).

Plan your math lessons using these exemplar lesson templates for [K-2](#) and [3-4](#).

#### **Science and Social Studies:**

Ensure your year science lessons is rigorous by using this [overview](#).

Plan your science instruction using these scope and sequences for [kindergarten](#) and [fourth grade](#).

Map out your year of kindergarten social studies instruction using this [curriculum map](#).

Research your state with your students using this [unit overview](#).

*To download more Achievement First resources in all subjects and grade levels, visit our [resources page](#).*

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## What's Happening at AF



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### Featured Opportunity

#### **Elementary School Teachers**

**Start Date:** July 2015

**Location:** New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island

We are looking for dedicated elementary school teachers to support our students as they begin their school careers. Our elementary teachers work hard to ensure that all of our students are on the road to college from the first day they enter the classroom. Achievement First supports this work with robust teacher professional development, ongoing planning sessions and weekly coaching meetings.

Learn more about our available teacher and leader roles [here](#).

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### Network Support Featured Opportunity

#### **Regional Superintendent**

**Start Date:** Immediate

**Location:** New York or Connecticut

The regional superintendent will coach, support and develop school leaders to meet their ambitious school performance goals. The regional superintendent will drive strong talent practices at schools, train and supervise principals and deans to help develop leadership power skills, and provide organizational development support to both network and school staff. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

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



Our schools are deep into another school year and we are so proud of what we've accomplished so far!

- Achievement First's Co-CEO, Dacia Toll, co-authored an opinion piece in U.S. News and World Report: "Raising the Bar: Embracing Common Core will not be easy, but it will be worth it." Check it out [here](#).
- In this powerful [New York Post op-ed](#), Achievement First Co-CEO and Superintendent Doug McCurry dispels the myth that charter schools fail to serve students with special needs. Doug shares the story of his son Jack, a charter school student who recently graduated from all special-education services.
- In an inspiring letter to the editor recently published in the Connecticut Post, AF Amistad High senior Nakida writes that too many people fail to see potential when they look at students of color. Nakida explains how that knowledge, and her empowering experience in Achievement First schools, compelled her to join the #ForEveryChild Rally on the New Haven Green. Read more on the [AF Chalkboard](#).
- This is AF Endeavor Elementary's first year with a full athletics program, and their students made it to the championship basketball game and challenged The Original Harlem Globetrotters to a game of P.I.G. In this [PIX 11 story](#), watch our students learn tricks from the Globetrotters.

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## Other Ways to Learn More

Like us on Facebook [here](#).

Follow us on Twitter [here](#).

Watch Achievement First videos [here](#).

Read the AF Chalkboard Blog [here](#).



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## 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.

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## Diversity & Inclusiveness

At Achievement First, we believe that closing the achievement gap is an economic and moral imperative. It is the civil rights issue of our time. In carrying out our mission, Achievement First must ensure that our team is composed of individuals who, through their talent, commitment and understanding of both student needs and effective teaching, can ensure all of our students succeed in accomplishing these big dreams. Diversity and inclusiveness are critical to our mission.

Read more about diversity and inclusiveness at Achievement First [here](#).

To view previous newsletters, click [here](#).



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