

Associate Curriculum Designer: ELA and Humanities, Greenfield



Imagine. Innovate. Empower

We believe an ELA/Humanities program should build amazing readers and writers, while also deepening students sense of identity and love of reading through a diverse and relevant curriculum. Our interdisciplinary ELA program merges reading, writing, history and independent reading. In 3rd - 6th grade, students will study Queen Nzinga, Dolores Huerta, Benjamin Banneker, Black Lives Matter, class strife in Ancient Rome, Middle Ages poetry and connections between Martin Luther and Dr. King, all as they read rich literature and grapple with deep questions in seminar that examine whether or not the “moral arc of the universe” bends towards justice.

We believe success takes a team. Help lead ours.

Start Date: July 1, 2018 (With Immediate Start Available)
Team: Greenfield
Location: New York City, NY; New Haven, CT; or Remote

About Achievement First:

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 charter school management organization, operates over 30 public charter schools in Brooklyn, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The mission of Achievement First is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all children, regardless of race or economic status. Achievement First currently educates more than 12,600 students in historically underserved neighborhoods, with over 90% of our students identifying as Black and Latino. With its college-preparatory focus, the Achievement First approach is attaining breakthrough academic gains throughout the network. Beyond our students and schools, Achievement First is an engaged and prominent partner in the larger conversation about how to improve public education and student achievement in our country.

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

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

For more information about Achievement First’s mission, approach, schools and team, please visit our website at www.achievementfirst.org.

About Greenfield

Greenfield is an innovative school model designed to help students thrive in our changing world. Achievement First’s Greenfield schools provide rigorous, high-quality instruction within a nurturing school community focused on developing self-motivated learners, problem-solvers and leaders. Students benefit from:

- More small group learning
- 1-1 Chromebooks that go home with scholars each night
- Self-directed learning opportunities with targeted support
- Deep and meaningful enrichment opportunities (such as music, martial arts & STEM)
- Expeditions (short units of project-based learning) that allow students to go deeper in an area of interest and experience hands-on learning in more authentic and engaging ways



The Greenfield ELA and Humanities Program

The ELA/Humanities program is a comprehensive, spiraled, interdisciplinary, vocabulary and content rich K-8 humanities program that builds strong close reading, writing, discussion and self-directed learning skills. Our program consists of four instructional blocks:

1. **Self-Directed Learning:** students learn key vocabulary and historical world knowledge reflecting a diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences through a social justice lens.
2. **Close Reading:** students apply humanities content knowledge to the analysis of rigorous texts of mixed genres (also known as close reading) and engage in culminating Socratic seminars that synthesize ideas and promote critical thinking about the unit’s topic.
3. **Writing:** students craft robust argumentative, informational and narrative writing related to the unit’s topic.
4. **Independent reading:** students read quality, engaging books of choice with the option to choose books about the topics they are studying in humanities and science.



We preference self-directed learning as the foundation of our program because executive functioning, agency and self-direction are keys college readiness. We believe that this self-directed learning can and should begin in elementary school and increase in independence and rigor through middle and high school

Given our unique model (aligned self-directed learning, reading and writing) most of our curriculum is built in house by leveraging research-based best practices and resources in the field. Our model is currently K-6. Next year we will design and build out the 7th and 8th grade program.

Summary

The ELA/Humanities Curriculum Designer is responsible for designing and revising high-quality curriculum for key aspects of the ELA/Humanities program at Greenfield. Our main focus for the 18-19 school year is design of our 7th and 8th grade ELA program (literature and writing) as well as ongoing iterations to our 3rd - 6th grade writing program. The ELA/Humanities Curriculum Designer will own iterations on the vision of Greenfield's ELA/Humanities program, collaborate with teachers to support execution of the provided curriculum materials, and continually assess the efficacy of the program. The ELA/Humanities Curriculum Designer will also support any efforts to pilot aspects of our 7th and 8th grade program. The ELA/Humanities Curriculum Designer will report to the Director of ELA and Humanities.



Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- **Support Vision and Direction Setting:** Contribute to the vision and direction of the ELA/Humanities team and manage 1-2 temps who will publish our curriculum in our online, learning management system.
- **Design Robust Curriculum, Tools and Resources:** Develop exemplary curriculum materials that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), PARCC, SBAC and New York State's test and that build on and leverage strong, diverse word and world knowledge. Curriculum materials include unit plans, assessments, daily lesson resources, student handouts, and online Self-Directed Learning (SDL) modules. Revise existing curricular materials based on feedback from Greenfield school staff and anecdotal and achievement data from Greenfield students.
- **Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness:** Ensure curriculum, tools, resources and student experiences are relevant, affirm student identity and foster a diverse array of perspectives.
- **Partner with Schools to Drive Excellence:** Collaborate with teachers and support the execution of Greenfield curriculum products.
- **Build and Maintain Relationships & Diverse and Inclusive Networks:** Collaborate with Achievement First's broader network support team to maximize network-wide best practices. Foster a collaborative workspace where a diversity of views, backgrounds and perspectives are welcomed. Fully leverage the diversity of our network, families and community partners.
- **Support Codification and Scaling:** Revise and help codify best practices to aid in scaling of the Greenfield model.
- **Row with the Team:** Report to and serve as a critical thought partner to the Director of ELA & Humanities. Occasional travel to Greenfield team meetings and/or to visit our Greenfield schools to observe, prototype, or work with small groups of students/teachers to learn about the strengths and weaknesses in our model.



Skills and Characteristics

- **Passion:** You are passionate about ELA and social studies content and pedagogy, with an emphasis on literature and/or writing, and you are eager to share this passion with both students and teachers.
- **Design Heart:** You love to design and plan rigorous, hands-on, multi-modal curricula. You have experience in unit and lesson planning, with a focus on clear daily and unit outcomes.
- **Keen Eye:** You are a strong critical thinker. You are able to synthesize large amounts of information and work independently to create products that are well-aligned to the program model and vision.
- **High Rigor Bar:** You have a deep expertise and content knowledge in reading, writing and history and have a strong internal compass for rigorous curriculum that is user-friendly for both teachers and students.
- **Organization:** You have exceptional organizational skills and are able to execute tasks with an acute attention to detail.
- **Entrepreneurial Drive and Spirit:** You are an entrepreneurial and ambitious educator with a passion for innovation and an eagerness to strategically redesign schools.
- **Dynamic:** You embrace change, are a team player, are flexible and adaptive, and strive for continuous development

Educational Background and Work Experience

- Bachelor's degree from a competitive college or university; ELA, history, or social science degree preferred
- 3+ years of relevant work experience, including at least two years of highly successful teaching experience
- Strong experience in curriculum and instruction preferred (as a teacher, instructional leader, program designer, or design consultant).
- Candidates with experience teaching ELA and/or social studies courses and/or designing ELA/Humanities curriculum in grades 4-8 are preferred.

Compensation

Salary for this position is competitive and commensurate with experience. Additionally, Achievement First offers a comprehensive benefits package.

To Apply

Send resume and cover letter with the job title in the subject line to: greenfield@achievementfirst.org

Achievement First is an equal opportunity employer and an organization that values diversity. People from all diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. Spanish language proficiency is a plus. You can learn more about diversity at Achievement First here: <http://www.achievementfirst.org/about-us/diversity/>.