

Associate Director of 5-12 Science Achievement

Start Date: July 2018
Team: Team Teaching and Learning
Location: Brooklyn, NY or New Haven, CT

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 close the achievement gap and deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all children, regardless of race or economic status. Achievement First currently educates more than 10,000 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.

Summary

The Associate Director of 5-12 Science Achievement is an integral part of the science team that works in collaboration with the network science team, principals, academic deans, and teachers to craft and drive the vision behind an exemplary science program. We work closely with schools to ensure that they develop the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to navigate a changing landscape with the introduction of the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and College Board Standards through professional and curricular development, core skill building, classroom observations and data analysis. This position offers the opportunity to be at the forefront of this instructional work at one of the nation's top charter school networks. This role will be high school focused for the 2018-19 school year, although there may be responsibilities across grades 5-12.

Responsibilities of the Associate Director of 5-12 Science Achievement Will Include but Are Not Limited to:

- **Drive Results for our Scholars**
 - Everything we do on Team Science is in service of ensuring that our scholars will thrive over the long term in STEM fields
- **Manage Program Vision and Implementation**
 - Act as a thought partner to the network leadership teams to help synthesize a best-in-class network vision for science instruction, contribute to the development of clear programmatic recommendations for school leaders, and disseminate pertinent and cutting edge science research to key players with an emphasis on high school science

- **Facilitate Professional Development**
 - With the secondary science team, develop professional development sessions that support vision setting for the science program, implementation of the curriculum, and growth of core skills and knowledge
- **Develop Curriculum**
 - Develop exemplary curricular materials that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and College Board Advanced Placement Standards with an emphasis on high school physics and chemistry curriculum
 - Be part of the team that has developed science resources that have been downloaded and used by hundreds of teachers through the AF Open Source Portal
 - Manage lead planners and consultants by providing formal and informal feedback on their materials. Specifically, these materials will include unit plans, assessments, accompanying lesson plans, and student work
- **Coaching and Observations**
 - Conduct focused observations 4-5 times a month to push content-specific instructional practices, improve implementation of curriculum, gather information on best practices and pilot new projects
 - Develop instructional eye of deans and principals through focused co-observations and feedback
- **Coordinate Core Science Program Systems**
 - Coordinate school leaders, deans and teachers in maintaining quality control of core systems integral to teaching and learning, such as process-based assessment, data collection, etc.
- **Analyze Data**
 - Deeply analyze student achievement data (student work samples, interim assessments and AP tests) to determine how to better develop materials and provide targeted, high quality teacher training

Skills and Characteristics

- Deep content and pedagogical expertise in science
- Exceptional collaboration, communication, analytical and influencing skills
- The ability to gain the trust and investment to earn credibility with key high school stakeholders, especially in physics and chemistry
- Exemplary writing skills
- Willingness to do “whatever it takes” and strong team player
- The ability to work autonomously as well as take direction as needed
- Strong data analysis skills
- Solid technical skills and experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher and with Adobe Acrobat
- An acute attention to detail and excellent organizational skills
- The ability to see through multiple projects with many moving parts from beginning to end
- Belief in the Achievement First mission and educational model
- Maturity, humility, strong work ethic, sense of humor, and “roll-up-my-sleeves” attitude

Educational Background and Work Experience

- A bachelor’s degree
- We would prefer a candidate with four or more years of highly successful science teaching experience. We will consider a candidate with a minimum of two years of teaching experience with exceptional results if there is relevant prior work experience.
- 2 or more years of highly successful teaching experience in a school serving primarily low-income students

- A proven, multi-year track record of exemplary science achievement, especially the achievement of low-income, minority students
- High school chemistry and/or physics experience preferred.

Some weekend/evening work and travel within New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island are required.

Compensation

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

To Apply

Email a cover letter, resume, and sample unit plan to:

Gillette Eckler

gilletteeckler@achievementfirst.org

In your cover letter please respond to the following:

- Why do you want to work at Achievement First?
- Describe your track record of exemplary student achievement and explain how this experience has prepared you for this role.
- How have your experiences and education prepared you for the demanding work and “whatever it takes” attitude necessary to push science practices and student achievement forward?

Please visit the Achievement First careers site at <http://www.achievementfirst.org/careers/>. 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/>.