

## Background Information



### **About Achievement First and AF Accelerate**

Since opening our first school in 1999, Achievement First (AF) has become a high performing network of 37 K-12 public charter schools serving more than 14,500 students in New York City, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Achievement First's mission is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children, and in the last 20 years, the students we serve have proven that zip code does not determine academic ability. Since 2010, AF Accelerate has partnered with other charters and traditional district schools in order to share what we know about building high-achieving schools that help low-income students of color succeed. We positively impact students beyond those served directly in our schools by providing our partners with open source resources, coaching and implementation support.

### **Developing the curriculum**

When AF decided to build its own K-12 scope and sequence, we sought heavy input from various experts, including the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas, to support design work and to review the curriculum to ensure alignment to the standards. On the assessments, we partnered with the Achievement Network. We formed a group of Curriculum Fellows, a cohort of our own master teachers, to write and edit the content. Revisions were reviewed by our network math leaders. We also formed course committees consisting of Curriculum Fellows, principals, and regional superintendents (principal managers) to evaluate the curriculum and give cyclical feedback over several years' time to allow for implementation time at their schools.

The Achievement First materials include several components that support maximum levels of student engagement and conceptual understanding. Unit plans include extensive content knowledge. Daily lesson plans are written in a narrative style so teachers can read and visualize what is happening in the classroom. Independent practice offers an assortment of problems at various levels that teachers can assign based on student performance in the moment. The goal is for students to develop the conceptual understanding to use math flexibly in any context and to both explain their thinking and understand the thinking of their peers. These strategies will carry them through their mathematics education beyond their elementary and middle school years.



### **Implementation Support**

AF Accelerate's [Navigator Program](#) provides intensive coaching and tools that enable district and charter schools to effectively implement AF's curriculum, ideally in their first or second year of implementation. The goal of Navigator is twofold: 1) increase student achievement and 2) further develop instructional leaders' skills to support implementation. The person leading the implementation at the school, network, or district level receives weekly one-on-one coaching support to adapt the program to the needs of their context, including support with assessment, data analysis and response, and working to support the needs of all learners. The program also offers guidance and additional resources for remote and/or hybrid instruction.

We guide leaders in their journey to drive math student achievement by building teacher and student skills and knowledge, focusing on conceptual understanding and problem solving. Navigator's yearlong coaching supports school leaders and teachers in further developing the skills and practices needed to implement the curriculum and drive results in the first year of implementation. Most partners return for a second year of support to build on the momentum of the first year and elevate their skills. This [short video](#) features program participants reflecting on their experience.

Partnership with Navigator Offers:

- Deep instructional coaching and implementation support with a virtual 3-day summer kick-off training, turnkey materials for teacher training, weekly coaching calls, recurring in-person or virtual site visits from your coach, interim assessments, and support with data analysis.
- Access to a national community of practice also implementing AF Navigator curriculum and instructional practices.
- Access to resources for remote instruction as needed.

For more information on the program, please visit: [Navigator Program](#)