

AXL ACADEMY SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHERS JOB DESCRIPTION

AXL ACADEMY

AXL is a new college preparatory charter school in Aurora, CO, serving students preK-8 grade. Our urban school community is diverse ethnically, linguistically, and socio-economically. We will open August of 2008 with kindergarten through 5th grade.

AXL empowers all students to master rigorous academic standards, become skillful and resourceful problem-solvers, and develop the character and love of learning they need to succeed in college and careers they choose. AXL offers a standards-based curriculum, inspired by the nationally acclaimed Expeditionary Learning Schools (ELS) model. AXL delivers high academic achievement, character growth, and equity for all learners through an active pedagogy and a strong school culture. Students are organized into single-gender divisions and loop for 2 years with their teacher. We operate on a year-round calendar.

SECOND LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT

All students at AXL are second language learners. AXL Academy believes that students need to read, write, speak, and understand English in order to succeed academically, socially, and economically. We also believe that proficiency in a second language enrich students' long-term opportunities in all of those areas. Thus, in order to graduate from AXL in 8th grade, students must be proficient in both English and Spanish. All students participate in content-based, second language programs (either ESL or SSL depending on their level of fluency and native language skills). Second language teachers work closely with classroom teachers to integrate content into language instruction based on grade level learning expeditions. Approximately 40% of AXL's students qualify as English Language Learners by district measures.

TEACHER JOB DESCRIPTION

All Teachers at AXL will:

- Establish a culture of high expectations that includes college preparation for all students
- Develop and implement curriculum and instructional practices consistent with AXL instructional guidelines and Colorado Content Standards
- Actively engage all students in their own learning through organization, instructional practices, equity-sensitive modeling, and community-building
- Know each student and his or her family well; create productive and positive relationships
- Assess students regularly in accordance with AXL guidelines, examine student data, and refine instructional and classroom practices to differentiate instruction as needed
- Provide students and their families with regular and timely information on classroom activities and students progress; find ways to involve families/parents/guardians in their students' education
- Actively participate in professional development, working with lead teachers, grade level teams, Director of Teaching and Learning, Head of School, student support personnel, and Expeditionary Learning Schools staff
- Collaborate with other AXL teachers to improve own and others' instructional practices; share best practices
- Track critical student information and maintain accurate student records, including attendance, in accordance with AXL guidelines
- Identify unique student needs and collaborate with other team members and outside service providers to diagnose and address learning challenges
- Demonstrate knowledge of and support for AXL Academy's mission, vision, value statements, core practices and benchmarks, policies and procedures, operating instructions, confidentiality standards, and code of conduct

SSL/ESL TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Spanish as a Second Language (SSL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) Teachers at AXL will:

- Instruct using second language practices and methodologies
- Strengthen language with materials that develop high proficiency
- Encourage students to develop their oral proficiency and language skills

- Work with classroom teachers to provide students and their families with regular and timely information on classroom activities and students progress; find ways to involve families/parents/guardians in their students' education
- Actively participate in professional development, working with lead teachers, grade level teams, Director of Teaching and Learning, Head of School, student support personnel, and Expeditionary Learning Schools staff
- Collaborate with other AXL teachers to improve own and others' instructional practices; share best practices
- Identify unique student needs and collaborate with other team members and outside service providers to diagnose and address language learning challenges

SSL/ESL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Spanish as a Second Language (SSL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) Teachers at AXL will:

- Identify student proficiency levels using the CELA placement assessment
- Use the CELA Placement testing and analyze the on-going data results for instructional practices and placement
- Monitoring students' language development and academic growth over time to adjust their support
- Work along side the office manager/secretary in collecting, distributing to the district and tracking/filing the Home Language Survey
- Work with the Director of Teaching and Learning to conduct/provide professional development opportunity based on student and staff language needs
- Plan regularly with teachers to integrate language lessons that support the teaching and learning in the classroom

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must:

- Hold a bachelor's degree or higher in a relevant field and be able to demonstrate specific content knowledge such as meet "highly qualified" criteria per NCLB
- ESL, TESOL, ESOL and/or ELD certification and/or endorsement required
- Demonstrate fluency in Spanish and English
- Thrive in a diverse, intellectually challenging, and entrepreneurial environment
- Believe *all* children – regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, or home language – can achieve at high levels, and believe that the teacher must actively engage students to make that happen
- Have knowledge of child cognitive development and different learning styles
- Ability to reflect and improve on own professional practice
- Demonstrate competence using qualitative and quantitative data to inform instruction and to assess students' progress over time
- Have successful experience working with children, youth, and their families in an urban setting

Ideal candidates will:

- Have experience working in nontraditional school environments
- Can demonstrate facility developing project-based curriculum
- Be familiar with instructional strategies for bilingual education and/or ESL
- Hold valid teaching credential or be eligible to earn credential in Colorado

COMPENSATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Competitive Salary
- Medical and dental benefits
- PERA retirement benefits
- Performance Bonuses
- Ongoing Professional Development with Expeditionary Learning Schools includes one-on-one technical assistance with ELS staff, regional and national training institutes, and opportunities for tuition/sabbatical funding
- Teachers' performance is evaluated annually by AXL's Director of Teaching & Learning and Head of School through authentic instruments, including a professional portfolio, learning plans, student growth over time, staff development, and input from colleagues

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please e-mail your cover letter, resume and essay response to Nicole Quintanilla at { HYPERLINK "mailto:nicole@axlacademy.org" }.

Essay Questions

1. Explain your teaching philosophy.
2. Describe your understanding of content-based curriculum.
3. Tell me what you already may know about Expeditionary Learning?

AXL is an equal opportunity employer.