



The Massachusetts School of
Science, Creativity and Leadership

Lead Lower Elementary Teacher & Curriculum Creator

Multi age classroom for students ages 5-7 with a STEM and creativity emphasis for gifted elementary students

Acera: The Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership

Winchester, MA (8 miles north of Boston) 5 Lowell Avenue

Summary:

Acera is a K-8 school which hires teacher entrepreneurs to create interdisciplinary, STEAM-rich hands-on learning approaches for high ability students. At Acera, students explore and learn at a pace appropriate to each child's unique motivation and potential, not their age. Our culture is not about pressure to achieve; it is about freedom to thrive. We support our students' innate curiosity and love of learning. Through developing EQ, complex and creative thinking skills, and systems awareness, we develop thinkers and innovators who will be able to make positive change in our world. Be part of a new progressive school with an exciting vision for impact!

Contact [hiring@aceraschool.org](mailto: hiring@aceraschool.org)

Overview:

Do you want to change the world of education? We do too. Acera is looking for someone with passion, high energy, and a commitment to innovation in education. Our educational mission is to change education in Massachusetts and build a model for 21st century learning. In just seven years, Acera has gone from an idea to a progressive elementary and middle school program with 125 students. We have an ambitious STEM, creativity and leadership emphasis for our students.

Acera is a growing, private K-8 school that provides high ability students with unbounded access to learning. We hire extraordinary Teacher Entrepreneurs who engage students with an interdisciplinary, hands-on learning approach. At Acera, students learn, discover and explore at a pace appropriate to each child's unique motivation and potential, not their age. Our culture is not about pressure to achieve; it is about freedom to thrive. We support our students' innate curiosity and love of learning. Through developing emotional intelligence, complex and creative thinking skills, and systems awareness, we develop thinkers and innovators who will be able to make positive change in our world. Acera teachers are deeply talented and share ideas to support each other as professionals. Be part of a new progressive school with an exciting vision for impact!

The Need for Something Different:

Massachusetts ranks at the bottom of the 50 states in supporting the needs of gifted students; there is great urgency and need within the gifted population that currently does not have access to an appropriate education.

Job Description: Acera seeks a dynamic, motivated, and dedicated professional to lead an elementary multi-age classroom. We seek a professional who has a deep love of and respect for children, who wants the freedom to invent an exciting and creative classroom. Our class size cap for lower and intermediate elementary is 14 students. Facilitate learning with differentiated instruction strategies, allowing for conceptual learning which is years ahead of chronological student age, while meeting the fine motor, kinesthetic, sensory and social skill development needs of young elementary students. Most of our students operate 2 or more grade levels ahead of expectation in one or more academic areas and all have qualified for admission as gifted students. The ideal candidate will be creative, articulate, flexible, collaborative, and have exceptional executive functioning skills. The expectations for this position are:

- Customize curriculum, leveraging essential questions as a springboard for inventing interdisciplinary, project based classroom learning.
- Create and adapt Individualized Learning Plans to drive learning approaches and focus for each student throughout the year
- Adapt classroom focus and strategies to differentiate for each student's needs
- Be fearless about proactively including STEM rich learning, interweaving technology and leading edge scientific ideas, while leveraging curriculum collaborators who can extend and expand classroom dialogue and learning.
- Collaborate and share ideas with other teachers; work as a community to utilize each person's knowledge across the whole school, to serve students as a whole community, and to continuously improve as a school and as professionals.
- Apply an eclectic blend of learning pedagogy, including teaching for understanding, multi age, Montessori, thematic and interdisciplinary, experiential, STEM oriented, and fully leveraging technology with laptops in every classroom.
- Use a teacher as facilitator style. This is not a traditional "in charge teacher who dispenses the knowledge" approach. Our teachers serve as facilitators who enable student learning in a way customized for student abilities and interests.



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- Embrace parent partnership educational model; communicate openly, with honesty and compassion. Share teaching philosophy and pedagogical beliefs; educate parents.

The successful candidate will have philosophical alignment with our core values and learning approach, which are outlined on our website: www.aceraschool.org

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree, preferably in an area other than education
- Masters degree in education a bonus but not required
- At least 3 years of teaching experience
- Experience with gifted education, special education, progressive learning approaches and a goal for understanding orientation (instead of a focus on core knowledge acquisition) is highly preferred.
- Fearlessness in and ideally with a love of science, mathematics, and integration of technology as a contextual tool enabling learning
- Deep capability to engage in differentiated instruction strategies in reading and writing; students in Acera's lower elementary classroom read at grade level up through reading *many* years ahead of age expectations; the LE teacher needs to be able to create individualized learning plans for each students literacy and emotional/social needs which fit each student.
- Exceptionally strong spoken and written communication and interpersonal skills. Acera's use of narrative report cards and high parent engagement necessitate a teacher who is responsive, who cares about and feels invested in parent partnership, and who is skillful in writing and conferencing.
- A personal background as a student who was or would have been identified for gifted education programming themselves enables our teachers to relate to the unique challenges, depth of inquiry and needs of gifted students

Application:

Please submit cover letter and resume along with a personal statement of educational philosophy, description of your classroom management / discipline beliefs, any experiences and/or training in gifted education you have had, and salary expectations to:

[hiring@Aceraschool.org](mailto: hiring@Aceraschool.org)

Anticipated start date: Late August 2017.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Acera is committed to maintaining a work and learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, pregnancy, gender, sexual orientation, marital/civil union status, ancestry, place of birth, age, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or disability as defined and required by state and federal laws.