

# POSITION STATEMENT

# The Frederick Gunn School

WASHINGTON, CT



**CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER SEARCH**

**START DATE: JULY 1, 2026**





## OVERVIEW

Founded in 1850, The Frederick Gunn School is a coeducational boarding and day school in Washington, Connecticut, serving students in grades 9–12 and a postgraduate year. Guided by the ideals of its founder—an abolitionist, naturalist, educator, and civic leader—Gunn has long believed that education must cultivate moral character, intellectual curiosity, physical engagement, and civic responsibility. Today, the school continues to embrace these principles, offering a distinctive educational experience that is both values-driven and forward-looking.

The Frederick Gunn School provides an education that intentionally integrates academic rigor, experiential learning, ethical reflection, and community life. Signature programs such as our Citizenship and Just Democracy program, Entrepreneurship, Highlander Term, and Gunn Outdoors invite

students to connect classroom learning with real-world inquiry and purpose. Faculty build deep, meaningful relationships with students, fostering a culture of curiosity, integrity, and belonging within a close-knit residential community. Gunn graduates go on to lead lives of purpose and matriculate at leading colleges and universities.

As Gunn continues an exciting period of growth and renewal, the school seeks a Chief Education Officer (CEdO) to serve as the senior academic leader and chief steward of the educational approach and outcomes for Gunn. Working in close partnership with a strategic, forward-thinking Head of School who is actively raising the bar for academic excellence and institutional ambition, the CEdO will help shape what is possible for a dynamic, leading small boarding school community. This is a rare opportunity to influence the future of a mission-driven school while honoring a powerful educational legacy.

# THE FREDERICK GUNN SCHOOL MISSION & VALUES

The Frederick Gunn School is guided by the enduring principles of its founder, who believed deeply in educating the whole person. Gunn's mission emphasizes intellectual engagement, moral character, civic responsibility, and a strong connection to the natural world. These values are lived daily through academic inquiry, residential life, experiential learning, and a shared commitment to community.

At Gunn, education is not confined to the classroom. The school's philosophy affirms that students learn through experience, reflection, challenge, and relationships. A commitment to belonging and open-mindedness strengthens the community and enriches learning, ensuring that every student is known, supported, and encouraged to grow into a thoughtful, principled adult prepared for college and life beyond Gunn.

Learn about the Head, find Quick Facts about the school, and review the mission here:  
<https://www.frederickgunn.org/about/welcome-from-head-of-school>



# THE FOUR PILLARS

The Frederick Gunn School's four modern pillars, defining founder Frederick Gunn's philosophy for today, are: Learning Yourself & How to Learn, Risk-Taking & Innovation, A Sense of Rootedness & Place, and Public Character & Active Citizenship.

These pillars guide the school's experiential learning, focusing on self-discovery, creative challenges, civic responsibility, and connection to community and nature, all built on the founder's core ideal that strength of character is the main goal of education.

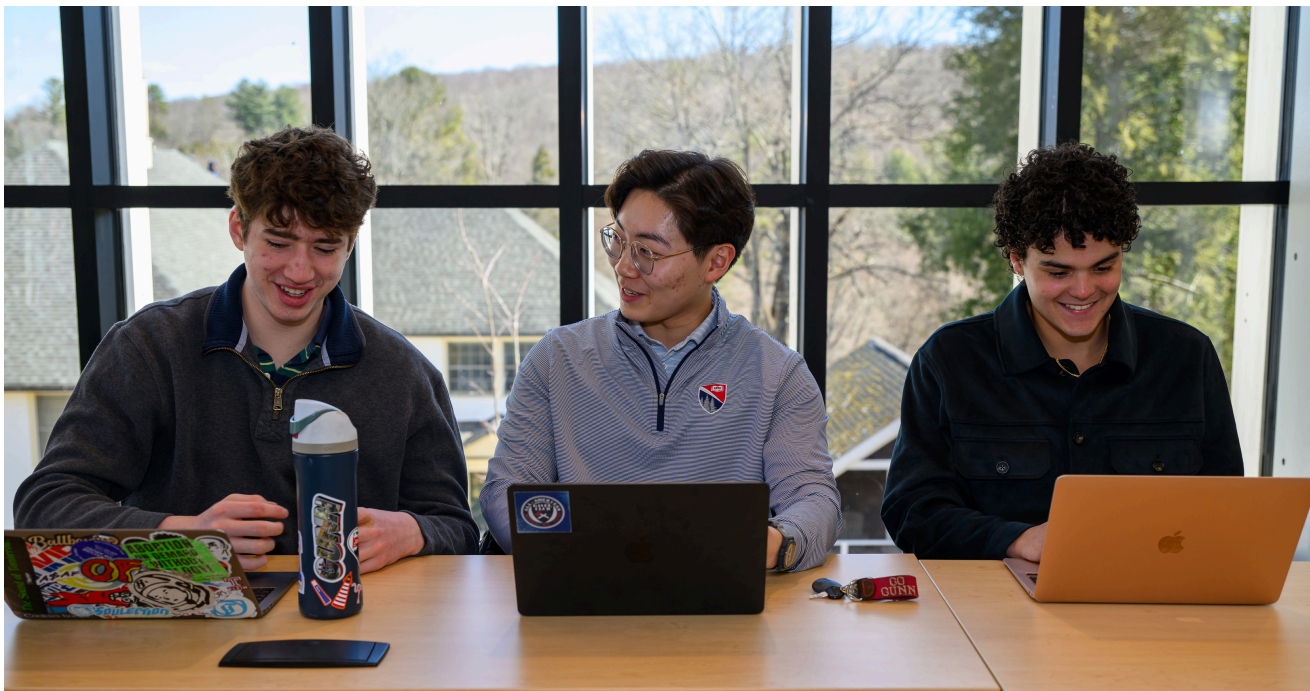
Here's a breakdown of each pillar:

- **Learning Yourself & How to Learn:** Focuses on self-awareness, metacognitive skills, and understanding one's unique learning process.

- **Risk-Taking & Innovation:** Encourages an entrepreneurial mindset, trying new things, and viewing failure as a learning opportunity.
- **A Sense of Rootedness & Place:** Connects students to their community, history, and the natural world through place-based learning.
- **Public Character & Active Citizenship:** Develops empathy, integrity, and leadership through community service, civic dialogue, and debate in the school's Citizenship and Just Democracy four-year curriculum.

These pillars are embedded in Signature Programs, ensuring an integrated, 21st-century educational experience.

Learn more about The Center for Citizenship and Just Democracy (CJD), Gunn Outdoors, IDEAS Lab, Entrepreneurship, and more here: <https://www.frederickgunn.org/academics/place-based-learning>



# THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The academic program at The Frederick Gunn School is both rigorous and innovative, designed to develop independent thinkers, ethical leaders, and engaged citizens. A strong college-preparatory foundation in the humanities, sciences, mathematics, world languages, and the arts, overseen by the Dean of Academics, is complemented by interdisciplinary offerings and opportunities for experiential learning. Gunn also boasts a robust Learning Center that plays a central role in supporting diverse learners, fostering skill development, independence, and access to the full academic program.

Programmatic Innovation has been a clear directive of the past decade at Gunn, and leadership in this area falls to the Dean of Programmatic Innovation, who is also the Director of the Center for Citizenship and Just Democracy (CJD). A four-year curricular program, students in CJD culminate their Highlander Journey with a capstone Civic Changemaker Project, setting them up with a mission-driven portfolio for life beyond Gunn. Other areas of focus for programmatic innovation are the Entrepreneurship Program, Gunn Outdoors, and Highlander Term (H-TERM), all of which further extend learning beyond traditional boundaries, encouraging creativity, collaboration, and initiative. H-TERM is an annual ten-day mini-term exemplifying Gunn's academic philosophy, providing immersive, hands-on learning experiences that challenge students to explore complex problems and apply their knowledge in authentic contexts.



College Counseling at Gunn is deeply relational and highly personalized, guiding students thoughtfully through the college search process with an emphasis on self-knowledge. The approach to College Counseling captures Gunn's holistic approach to education, preparing students to thrive in a rapidly changing world. By including this area within the leadership scope of the Chief Education Officer, the expectation is for a refined and synthesized experience between curriculum, outside-of-the-classroom learning, and students' experience of the college application process.

More information about academics is here: <https://www.frederickgunn.org/academics>

# THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER DESCRIPTION

The Chief Education Officer is the school's senior academic leader, responsible for shaping, guiding, and stewarding the educational program across the institution. Reporting to the Head of School and serving as a key member of the senior leadership team, the CEo oversees strong teams in academics, programmatic innovation, and college counseling.

The Chief Education Officer will work in close partnership with a Head of School who is deeply committed to forward momentum, strategic thinking, and continuous improvement. Together, they will help define and advance a compelling academic vision that honors Gunn's mission while responding thoughtfully to emerging research, best practices, and the evolving needs of students and families.

This role offers the chance to influence both strategy and practice, ensuring that Gunn's academic program remains vibrant, coherent, differentiated, and future-ready.



# OPPORTUNITIES

The Chief Education Officer will have a powerful opportunity to further transform and unify Gunn's academic program by bringing greater cohesion, clarity, and long-term vision to work that is already thoughtful and ambitious. Over recent years, the school has expanded its curriculum, embraced flexibility, and invested in experiential learning. The next leader will help articulate how these elements connect into an intentional educational journey, grounding innovation in research, institutional knowledge, and Gunn's mission so that change is purposeful and enduring.

This role also offers the opportunity to build sustainable systems that allow innovation to thrive beyond individual initiatives. Faculty and academic leaders are eager for a forward-thinking, research-focused partner who can strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, bring consistency to curriculum design and assessment, and ensure our outcomes exemplify the intentionality of our program. By aligning academic decision-making and supporting professional growth, the CEo can help continuously define Gunn's academic identity and strengthen its position as a leading small boarding school.

A further opportunity lies in intentionally aligning Gunn's mission and values, the Pillar Programs, and the core academic curriculum into a fully integrated educational model. The Chief Education Officer will help articulate how academics, advising, experiential learning, residential life, athletics, and community values together educate the whole student. By framing the boarding experience itself as a powerful classroom, this leader will reinforce coherence, deepen student growth, and clearly communicate what makes a Gunn education both modern and enduring.

# EXPERIENCE AND PERSONALITY OF THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal Chief Education Officer will be a forward-thinking academic leader with experience guiding complex, mission-driven schools or organizations through meaningful program evolution. This leader will bring deep knowledge of curriculum design, pedagogy, assessment, and adolescent formation, along with the ability to translate educational research and emerging best practices into clear strategy and effective systems. They will understand the distinctive potential of a residential school and know how to align academics, student support, experiential learning, and community life into a cohesive educational vision.

Equally important, the Chief Education Officer will be an inspiring and visionary presence—someone who can galvanize faculty and academic leaders around a shared sense of purpose. Strategic yet relational, this leader will listen deeply, communicate clearly, and build trust while setting high expectations for excellence and innovation. With optimism, humility, and credibility, the CEo will honor Gunn's values while boldly shaping its next chapter of student-centered, future-ready education.

## HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in applying to be the Chief Education Officer at The Frederick Gunn School may apply online at:

<https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>

The application includes:

- Letter of Interest that addresses: Why this opportunity at Frederick Gunn School and why now?
- Resume
- Personal Statement/Education Philosophy

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Conversations with the consultant will be ongoing, with a plan for the school team to begin interviews in January. We anticipate a hire being made early in the new year, with the next Chief Education Officer beginning in July 2026.

You are encouraged to submit materials promptly if interested.

If you have any questions about the search, please contact the consultant, Adam Peichert, from Resource Group 175, who is supporting the search:  
[adam.peichert@rg175.com](mailto:adam.peichert@rg175.com)

Thank you for your interest in The Frederick Gunn School. We look forward to hearing more about your interest in this exciting opportunity.