



Chad Ferguson, Executive Director, Citizens of the World New York

**Chad Ferguson** was recently named Executive Director of Citizens of the World Charter Schools New York. Most recently, he worked as interim Chief Academic Officer for St. HOPE Public Schools, a network of charter schools, grades PreK through 12, in one of Sacramento's most under-served communities.

Before moving to California, Chad served on the team of the Senior Deputy Chancellor in the New York City Department of Education, focused on developing systems of support for a citywide cohort of struggling schools. He was the Chief Academic Officer for District 79, which serves some of the most vulnerable students in the New York City public schools, including students in incarcerated settings, substance abuse programs, GED programs, and pregnant and parenting students. In his role in District 79, Chad launched an effort to revamp the citywide GED curriculum to align with the Common Core Learning Standards, and managed a major collaboration with the New York City Department of Probation and the Administration for Children's Services.

Previously, Chad served in the District of Columbia Public Schools under the leadership of Michelle Rhee as the Instructional Superintendent for Alternative Schools and Programs and as the Deputy Chief of Youth Engagement. As Instructional Superintendent, he oversaw the district's programs for incarcerated youth, students in long-term suspension, alternative high schools and evening programs for youth and adults. As Deputy Chief, Chad created and led the office that manages student attendance and truancy, student behavior and school culture, health and wellness, and targeted student support efforts. In his role as Deputy Chief, Chad led an ambitious reform effort to improve student attendance, resulting in a 40% reduction in chronic truancy over a two-year period. He also guided an overhaul of the code of student discipline, and launched an initiative to provide better support for LGBTQ students. Chad began his career in education with a work-study job in college, tutoring in the Chicago Public Schools. He taught middle school science in the Mississippi Delta as part of Teach For America, and he helped lead the Teach For America training institute for many years. For the 10 years prior to moving to DC, Chad worked in the New York City public schools, teaching high school math and science in one of the first alternative schools in Bronx, serving as a school administrator in Harlem and Brooklyn, and working with the Superintendent of District 79, Alternative Schools and Programs. Chad holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in education administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.