

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Postsecondary Readiness

M-DCPS offers students at all levels a variety of programs to prepare students for postsecondary education in order to maximize each student's academic talents and interests. These programs are described below and participation and performance data in each program indicate the accomplishments made in this indicator/category.

Honors Courses

Honors courses are available in most middle schools and all high schools throughout the District, and enrollment is open to all students. These courses are accelerated from the traditional school curriculum, and provide additional critical thinking skills to students. Honors courses generate credit that can be used towards high school graduation. In high schools, all subject areas offer honors-level courses.

- The percent of students enrolled in Honors courses has increased by 8.7% from 43,832 in 2007-2008 to 47,644 in 2010-2011.

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available in all high schools, and enrollment is open to all students. Although some students enroll in AP courses as early as grade 9, most students begin taking AP courses in grades 10 and/or 11. These courses are challenging, providing college-level course work while students are still in high school. Towards the end of the school year, students participate in the AP exam, an examination that assesses student's knowledge in the specific content area. Scores range from one through five. Most colleges and universities will award students college credit for their AP course, if they have scored a three or above on the exam. This benefits students and parents, as students will not have to pay or take these courses over once they enter a post-secondary institution. AP courses are offered in the following subjects: Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Science, Science, Technology, Foreign Language, and the Arts.

- The percent of students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses has increased by 36.2% from 17,049 in 2007-2008 to 23,219 in 2010-2011.
- The number of Advanced Placement course offerings increased by 27.7% from 772 in 2007-2008 to 986 in 2010-2011.
- The total number of 3, 4, and 5 scores on the Advanced Placement exam increased by 34.3% from 12,118 in May 2008 to 16,271 in May 2011.
- The total number of students participating in at least one AP Exam increased by 38.5% from 16,098 in May 2008 to 22,298 in May 2011.
- M-DCPS was highlighted in the 7th Annual AP Report to the Nation as having the greatest number of Hispanic students worldwide, scoring a 3 or higher in seven (7) different Advanced Placement (AP) Exams during the May 2011 administration.

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International Baccalaureate (IB)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is a highly coordinated course of study linking Humanities, Science, Mathematics, Languages, and Community Service. Curriculum in the IB Diploma Programme incorporates standards that assume a high level of aptitude and achievement. The IB Diploma is recognized at colleges and universities throughout the country and world-wide. M-DCPS currently has six (6) accredited IB Diploma High Schools including: Coral Gables Senior, Coral Reef Senior, John A. Ferguson Senior, Miami Beach Senior, North Miami Senior, and South Dade Senior.

- The percent of students enrolled in International Baccalaureate (IB) courses has increased by 14.2% from 1,108 in 2007-2008 to 1,292 in 2010-2011.
- The percent of students passing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams was 78% in May 2010.

Advanced Certificate of Education (AICE)

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) – Cambridge Program is an advanced academic pre-university curriculum for students who are working towards International Advanced (A) and Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level qualifications. The Cambridge AICE Diploma requires students to study at least three subjects drawn from the different curriculum areas. An AICE Diploma is a prestigious award that is recognized and valued by colleges and universities, many of which are now offering advanced standing and academic credit for AICE examinations passed. M-DCPS currently has four (4) accredited AICE High Schools including: American Senior, G. Holmes Braddock Senior, Miami Lakes Educational Center, and Ronald Reagan Senior.

- 809 students participated in the Cambridge Academy, Advanced International Certification of Education (AICE) program in 2010-2011.
- The percent of students passing the Cambridge Academy, Advanced International Certification of Education (AICE) Exams was 60% in May 2010.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment (DE) provides students the opportunity to enroll in college courses while still in high school. In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, DE is provided through Miami-Dade College (MDC), University of Florida (UF), and Florida International University (FIU). Students who qualify may enroll in a college course, and the tuition and textbook cost is waived for the student. Most students take courses after regular school hours, in addition to the courses they are enrolled in at their high school. Upon completion of the course, the credit earned can be used towards fulfillment of a high school graduation requirement, and can also be used as college credit. In order to qualify for dual enrollment, students must be entering or be in grade 10, grade 11, or

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grade 12, must have a 3.0 unweighted grade point average (GPA), and meet all the criteria for admission to MDC or FIU.

Special options for DE students include specific partnership agreements with Miami Dade College's *School for Advanced Studies (SAS)*, available at four (4) campuses, and Florida International University's *Advanced Academics Academy (AAA)*, available at two (2) campuses. Each is designed for talented 11th and 12th grade students who are given the opportunity for acceleration and enrichment. The College/University provides classroom space and M-DCPS employs the teachers, counselors, and principal.

The *School for Advanced Studies (SAS)*, founded in 1987, is the oldest Dual Enrollment high school in the state. It is located on four campuses at Miami Dade College (North Campus, Kendall Campus, Wolfson Campus, and Homestead Campus). The *Advanced Academics Academy (AAA)*, founded in 2009, is located on two campuses at FIU (Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay North Campus). Each semester, students in these programs are enrolled in three or four College Dual Enrollment courses taught by MDC/FIU faculty, and three high school courses taught by M-DCPS faculty. Additionally, most of the students complete more than 75 hours of community service annually. Tuition and books are free. Other benefits include use of the campus libraries and computer labs, and one-on-one mentoring sessions with faculty members.

- The percent of students enrolled in Dual Enrollment (DE) courses has increased by 78.3% from 1,753 in 2007-2008 to 3,126 in 2010-2011.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The goal of M-DCPS's Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) is to prepare students for postsecondary career readiness success beyond high school. Career and technical education programs provide opportunities for students to integrate and apply knowledge in meaningful ways through design and problem solving processes that foster high order thinking and technical skills in areas of interest to students.

Career Academies represent a nationwide effort to help learners obtain the knowledge and skills they need for career success and develop well-established positive outcomes, including: increased attendance, decreased behavioral problems such as suspension, increased graduation rates for both at-risk and general populations, and increased transition to postsecondary education and training. M-DCPS has registered 186 career and professional academies this year with the State of Florida. Each CTE program of study is designed through its curriculum scope and sequence to meet the needs of students who desire to pursue the Florida Gold Seal Bright Futures Scholarship. Students who successfully complete and earn a 3.5 unweighted GPA in at least three CTE courses within a major, in addition to meeting all other application requirements, may qualify for scholarship funds.

M-DCPS carefully designs CTE academies to respond to local workforce needs and to focus on high skill and high wage industries. Students have the opportunity to receive

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college credit for high school career technical education courses through the district-wide CTE Articulation Agreements with both public and private colleges. Postsecondary transition specialists are available at the three postsecondary career technical institutions to facilitate career pathway EXPOs, internships, job shadowing, on-the-job training-work experience and field trips to local technical centers, colleges and universities. CTE programs of study now extend beyond high school, linking curriculum to industry certifications or a community college degree, which helps students transition to postsecondary education and careers.

- M-DCPS increased the number of registered Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Academies by 5% from 155 in 2008-2009 to 163 in 2010-2011.
- The total number of students participating in CAPE Academies increased by 18.5% from 17,668 in May 2008-2009 to 20,951 in May 2010-2011.
- The number of students earning industry certifications increased by 495% from 437 in 2008-2009 to 2,162 in 2010-2011.
- M-DCPS has the largest number of academies for a single district in the National Academy Foundation (NAF) network.
- Two (2) M-DCPS career academies have achieved “distinguished” academy status in the National Academy Foundation network, a coveted designation received by only a few academies nationwide over the two-year period, 2010-11.
- Based on one-year data for the 2011 graduating class, results indicate that NAF students in the 12th grade enrolled in NAF programs had a 90% graduation rate.
- Based on 2010-11 data, NAF students are earning credits at a significantly higher rate at the end of each year to reach graduation. At the end of 9th grade – 6% higher than non-NAF; 10th grade – 8% higher than non-NAF; 11th grade – 8% higher than non-NAF; 12th grade – 7% higher than non-NAF.
- M-DCPS had over 1,200 students enrolled in a NAF summer internship in a 5-year period from 2006-2011. There was a 29% increase in the number of NAF students completing a summer internship from 2010 to 2011.
- M-DCPS had four career academies recognized as national model academies by the National Career Academy Coalition in 2010-11.

Special Education Programs

To expand postsecondary education and career opportunities for students with disabilities, the Office of Special Education & Educational Services spearheads various curricular programs tailored to students’ unique learning needs. Project VICTORY [Vocational Instruction and Community Training Opportunities, foR Youth] provides a half-day training program that helps high school juniors and seniors with disabilities

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acquire basic employability skills. Since its inception in 1986, the program has targeted the development of social, emotional and work-related skills essential to acquire and sustain real-world employment. Each student's progress is supervised and monitored by a teacher certified in Special Education and a part time job coach. Project BRIDGE [Building Recreational Independence and Developing Gateways to Employment] focuses on students with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities who receive specialized instruction in the fields of marine and environmental sciences, boating and recreation. Forged in partnership with the Shake-a-Leg Foundation, the program immerses students aged 18-22 in experiential education that simultaneously promotes social skill development. To facilitate the transition to a collegiate environment, M-DCPS has launched Project ACCEPT [Access to College and Community Environments in Preparation for Transition] in partnership with Miami-Dade College and Project Panther LIFE [Learning is for Everyone] in collaboration with Florida International University. Students with disabilities participate in inclusive, integrated postsecondary programs with an individualized, person-centered curricula based on student needs, strengths, and interests. By facilitating access to postsecondary education and on campus experiences supported through academic mentoring, peer coaching, faculty advising, and job coaching, students acquire meaningful skills and greater independence that will lead to enhanced employment opportunities.

- 260 students participated in the Project Victory program in 2010-2011.
- 60 students participated in the full time transition programs (Projects BRIDGE, ACCEPT, SEARCH, and Panther LIFE) in 2010-2011.
- 50 students participated in vocational transition programs in collaboration with community agencies in 2010-2011.