

## **M-DCPS Success Academy**

### **Program Description**

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Success Academy was created and launched to support some of the District's most academically needy students at many fragile schools. The program, in its fourth year of implementation, has evolved into a model that extends learning opportunities of grade level specific standards for students who need the additional instructional support. Schools are allocated funds to hire staff and implement this model program through a series of Saturdays prior to the assessment administration period. The Success Academy Manual is provided as an attachment.

### **Lesson Plans**

The cornerstone of the Success Academy is the in-depth lesson plans for reading, mathematics and science, aligned to the State's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). Developed by staff in Curriculum and Instruction (C and I), these lesson plans are designed to deepen students' conceptual knowledge. They are produced giving consideration to the students' performance on the District Interim Assessments, ensuring that instruction is targeted to meet academic needs and is aligned to state standards. A focus on teaching through inquiry helps to foster understanding of previously taught concepts not mastered by students. As the State's phase-in of the NGSSS has occurred over the last few years, the lesson plans have been revised to reflect the new standards.

### **District Support**

The District provides funding and guidance to participating schools in order to implement the Success Academy. The Title 1 Office funds the program and assists schools in managing the schools' budgets for this initiative. Schools hire personnel and teachers so that they may select the most qualified individuals for the program. In addition to developing the lesson plans, C and I staff provide professional development to the schools' instructional coaches and school personnel in the delivery of the in-depth instruction required by these lesson plans. Also, C and I staff assist in monitoring program implementation of the Success Academy at participating schools. District and regional center administrators visit schools during the Saturdays that the program is implemented to ensure a smooth implementation and troubleshoot any difficulties that may arise at any given school.

### **Benefit to All Schools**

Although the Success Academy was designed for selected low performing schools, the lesson plans are made available to all schools as evidenced by the attached Weekly Briefing. Principals may choose to use these lesson plans to augment their instructional program, as needed.