

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Division of Student Services**

**TOOLS FOR SUCCESS:
Preparing Students for Senior High School And Beyond**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the fourth largest school district in the United States, has established a proactive policy to assist student transition from grade level to grade level. The Division of Student Services, cognizant of the fact that there are critical periods in a student's educational experience, has identified specific strategies at multiple grade levels that are to be implemented in the areas of transition and orientation. These lessons are in support of the four main areas in essential development of students' **academic proficiency, personal integrity, civic awareness, and workplace literacy**. These strategies focus on **educational achievement, personal/social development, career, and health/community awareness** which support student success. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has established the Articulation, Board Rule 6GX-13 as a proactive policy to improve seamless transition for all students.

Tools for Success: Preparing Students for Senior High School and Beyond is a ninth grade orientation course consisting of lesson plans and activities that has been developed by M-DCPS teachers, counselors, and community partners to address issues and competencies that impact student transition. The lesson plans developed in this document are designed to be informational, developmental, project-based, and include authentic assessment and real-world experiences. An inquiry question is included in each lesson to stimulate student thinking and to serve as a writing prompt in preparation for the lesson. National Standards for Freshman Transition (NSFT), The Sunshine State Standards (SSS), Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) benchmarks, and the Standards and Benchmarks outlined in the Comprehensive Student Services Program PK-Adult document (found on e-handbooks) are infused throughout seven main goals:

GOAL I: Welcome to High School provides students with a broad understanding of senior high school programs and opportunities including course of study selections, club/activity participation, and resources available to the student. Students will have to place a "value" on a high school diploma and create a budget for living "on my own." Included in this section is a review of graduation requirements and read and review Section 1003.428 Florida Statutes – General requirements for high school graduation. Students will also set short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals.

GOAL II: Succeeding in High School provides students with test-taking strategies and skills in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, and writing that are FCAT-related. Listening and communication skills are a major component. Students develop study skills and learning strategies, as well as information literacy skills, for the purpose of accessing information that can be applied to multiple areas of inquiry.

GOAL III: Tools for Self-Assessment provides students with instruments for self-assessment in the areas of learning styles, personal strengths and limitations, and listening skills. Students will be asked to define "what does it mean to be smart" and be introduced to the theory of multiple intelligences. Additionally, students will be provided with strategies to strengthen their skills in the various modes of learning: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic.

GOAL III - **Tools for Self-Assessment**

- **My Learning Strengths and “Smartness”:** This lesson helps students create an awareness of their personal learning strengths and weaknesses. It also helps to boost their self-esteem by allowing them to identify how they are smart and dispels misconceptions about “smartness”.
- **How Do I Learn?:** After taking a learning inventory on auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning, students create an awareness of their personal learning styles. Students develop techniques to enhance the understanding of content materials.
- **The Body Has the Last Word:** Students will demonstrate body-language techniques through role playing activities and explain how body-language hinders or helps success.
- **Habits Help Determine Your Success in Life:** Students will discuss their personal habits and their impact on life.
- **Habits That Help to Develop Responsibility, Effective Planning, and Prioritizing:** This lesson will help students discuss their personal habits and their impact on responsibilities, effective planning skills, and prioritizing their actions.
- **Attitude is Everything:** This lesson will help students develop and identify skills necessary to have a positive attitude, and listening skills.
- **Being a Team Player Helps Everyone:** This lesson will help students develop and identify skills necessary to be a team player, and ways to take care of their body, brain, heart and soul.

GOAL IV: Career and Postsecondary Planning

- **Learning After Senior High School:** This lesson introduces students to college opportunities in the State of Florida and provides students with an opportunity to use the internet link FACTS.org to access important postsecondary information.
- **Rah! Rah! Career Prep:** This lesson provides an opportunity to learn about the various career preparation programs that are available at the senior high school. Additionally, the students will explore the components of various careers using the Occupational Outlook Handbook.
- **My Career Investigation:** This lesson will give the student an opportunity to investigate a career choice, find concrete information utilizing the internet, and create a classroom presentation using a rubric as a guide.

GOAL V - Work Related Behaviors

- **What is SCANS?:** Through cartoons and CRISS reading strategies, the students are introduced to the Secretary of Labor’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) and the importance of developing skills in senior high school that can translate into success in the workplace.