

# Mater Academy Middle School Of International Studies



2014-15 School Improvement Plan

## Mater Academy Middle School Of International Studies

795 NW 32ND ST, Miami, FL 33127

<http://www.materacademyis.com/>

### School Demographics

**School Type**

Middle

**Title I**

Yes

**Free/Reduced Price Lunch**

93%

**Alternative/ESE Center**

No

**Charter School**

Yes

**Minority**

100%

### School Grades History

Year	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Grade	A	A	A	A

### School Board Approval

This plan is pending approval by the Dade County School Board.

### SIP Authority and Template

Section 1001.42(18), Florida Statutes, requires district school boards to annually approve and require implementation of a school improvement plan (SIP) for each school in the district.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) SIP template meets all statutory and rule requirements for traditional public schools and incorporates all components required for schools receiving Title I funds. This template is required by State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.099811, Florida Administrative Code, for all non-charter schools with a current grade of D or F, or with a grade of F within the prior two years. For all other schools, the district may use a template of its choosing. All districts must submit annual assurances that their plans meet statutory requirements.

This document was prepared by school and district leadership using the Florida Department of Education's school improvement planning web application located at <https://www.floridacims.org>.

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## Purpose and Outline of the SIP

The SIP is intended to be the primary artifact used by every school with stakeholders to review data, set goals, create an action plan and monitor progress. A corollary at the district level is the District Improvement and Assistance Plan (DIAP), designed to help district leadership make the necessary connections between school and district goals in order to align resources. The Florida Department of Education encourages schools to use the SIP as a “living document” by continually updating, refining and using the plan to guide their work throughout the year. This printed version represents the SIP as of the “Date Modified” listed in the footer.

### Part I: Current School Status

Part I organizes the current status of the school around five domains inspired by the 5Essentials framework: Supportive Environment, Family and Community Involvement, Effective Leadership, Public and Collaborative Teaching, and Ambitious Instruction and Learning. Questions regarding the school’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports have been embedded throughout this part to demonstrate how data is used by stakeholders to understand the needs of all students and allocate appropriate resources in proportion to those needs.

### Part II: Needs Assessment

Part II requires the school to review performance and early warning systems data in order to develop strategic goals and associated data targets (i.e., “SMART goals”) for the coming school year in context of the school’s greatest strengths and needs. An online tool was developed, which includes data visualizations and processing questions to support problem identification, problem analysis and strategic goal formulation.

### Part III: 8-Step Planning and Problem Solving for Implementation

Part III enables the school to develop implementation plans for its highest-priority goals. With the overview of the current state of the school in mind and the strategic goals identified through the needs assessment, the planning team engages in a facilitated planning and problem-solving process, through which they

- Define strategic goals and establish targets to be reached by successfully achieving the goals (Step 1)
- Identify resources available to support the goals and barriers that could hinder achieving those goals (Step 2)
- Select high-priority barriers they want to address initially (Step 3)
- Design implementation and monitoring plans for strategies to resolve selected barriers (Steps 4-7)
- Determine how they will monitor progress toward each goal (Step 8)

### Appendices

The following appendices, automatically-generated from content entered in Part III, are included in this document:

- Appendix 1 is a timeline of all action steps and monitoring activities
- Appendix 2 is an outline of all professional development opportunities and technical assistance items
- Appendix 3 is a report of the budget needed to implement the strategies

# Differentiated Accountability

Florida’s Differentiated Accountability (DA) system is a statewide network of strategic support, differentiated by need according to performance data, and provided to schools and districts in order to improve leadership capacity, teacher efficacy and student outcomes. DA field teams collaborate with district and school leadership to design, implement and refine improvement plans, as well as provide instructional coaching, as needed.

## DA Regions

Florida’s DA network is divided into five geographical regions, each served by a field team led by a regional executive director (RED).

## DA Categories

Traditional public schools are classified at the start of each school year, based upon the most recently released school grades (A-F), into one of the following categories:

- Not in DA – currently A or B with no F in prior three years; charter schools; ungraded schools
- Monitoring Only – currently A or B with at least one F in the prior three years
- Prevent – currently C
- Focus – currently D
  - Planning – two consecutive grades of D (i.e., DD), or a grade of F immediately followed by a grade of D in the most recent grades release (i.e., FD)
  - Implementing – two consecutive grades of D in the most recent grades release preceded by a grade below C (i.e., FDD or DDD)
- Priority – currently F
  - Planning – declined to a grade of F in the most recent grades release and have not received a planning year or implemented a turnaround option during the previous school year
  - Implementing – two consecutive grades of F (i.e., FF), or three consecutive grades below C with an F in the most recent grades release (i.e., FDF or DDF)

## DA Turnaround and Monitoring Statuses

Additionally, schools in DA are subject to one or more of the following Turnaround and Monitoring Statuses:

- Former F – currently A-D with at least one F in the prior three years; SIP is monitored by FDOE
- Planning – Focus Planning and Priority Planning; district is planning for possible turnaround
- Implementing – Focus Implementing and Priority Implementing; district is implementing the Turnaround Option Plan (TOP)

## 2014-15 DA Category and Statuses

DA Category	Region	RED
Not In DA	5	<a href="#">Gayle Sitter</a>
Former F	Turnaround Status	
No		





## Part I: Current School Status

### Supportive Environment

#### School Mission and Vision

##### Provide the school's mission statement

The Mission of the District is:  
Meaningful achievement of  
Academics facilitated by  
Teachers, administrators, parents & the community  
Enabling students to become confident, self-directed &  
Responsible lifelong learners.

The mission of Mater Academy of International Studies is to provide an innovative, challenging, bilingual and multi-cultural curriculum, preparing students to have a global edge. We will strive to create a thirst for knowledge in all disciplines of the curriculum and enrich every student with a sense of purpose, a belief in their own efficacy, and a commitment to the common good.

##### Provide the school's vision statement

The Vision of Mater Academy, Inc. is to provide students a viable educational choice that offers an innovative, rigorous, and seamless college preparatory curriculum, providing Mater students, at every level from PK-12th grade, with a competitive advantage against their contemporaries. To that end, Mater Schools strive to:

- create a thirst for knowledge in all disciplines;
- kindle the art of thinking and serve as a springboard for lifelong learning; and
- deliver and enrich every student with a sense of purpose, a belief in their own efficacy, and a commitment to the common good.

The vision of Mater Academy of International Studies is to provide a loving, caring, and supportive educational environment, where the whole child is developed and a philosophy of respect and high expectations is instilled for all students, parent, teachers, and staff

#### School Environment

##### Describe the process by which the school learns about students' cultures and builds relationships between teachers and students

The school fosters a positive student culture by creating opportunities for students to interact with staff and the student body. Students have the opportunity to showcase their cultural values throughout the school year i.e. African American History, Hispanic Heritage, etc. This interaction provides students a unique experience to learn and respect the different cultures representative of the student body.

This interaction provides an insight to student interest and gives the teachers a better understanding of their students' needs. Teachers create a safe environment in their classrooms where their students are able to discuss their culture and how they learn through a process of interactive activities in the classroom and showcased for all stakeholders to see.

##### Describe how the school creates an environment where students feel safe and respected before, during and after school

The primary concern for all teachers, staff, and administration the very first day of school is to instill in the students the concept that not only will they be learning new material which will help them in their future endeavors but most importantly that the school and their classroom setting is their safe haven. All teachers create an atmosphere that is free of violence and discord by listening to the concerns of



the student body. We start each day by our mission statement which establishes in the students that they are somebody important in the classroom setting and their hard work and dedication to their studies will prove to be fruitful in the future. In addition, we incorporate a school wide Character Development Program that focuses on the "pillars" of good character such as, Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. This is reinforced throughout the day in classrooms through lessons targeting each "pillar" and by all staff members who continue to praise positive interactions for the students throughout the halls and the classrooms. At the end of the day students are provided with afternoon announcements which always remind them that if they believe they can achieve and students demonstrating good character are praised.

Our school has security cameras and a security monitor that further help to create a safe environment both during school hours and after school.

Our staff and administration are available to all students and parents to address any concerns that they may have being a classroom issue or a personal issue which can affect student progress.

Overall, we perpetuate an environment where the students know that Mater Academy of International Studies is their "safe space".

Mater Academy of International Studies

**Describe the schoolwide behavioral system in place that aids in minimizing distractions to keep students engaged during instructional time. This may include, but is not limited to, established protocols for disciplinary incidents, clear behavioral expectations, and training for school personnel to ensure the system is fairly and consistently enforced**

Mater Academy of International Studies students will abide by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct is a school-wide plan that clearly outlines student expectations. Proper behavior is recognized and consequences are given for breaking the code. The first week of class all teachers cover the Code of Student Conduct and the Parent Student Handbook in depth to ensure that students understand what is expected of them the minute they walk through the door. Teachers also establish classroom rules and classroom routines such as a daily bell ringer for each subject area.

School rules are clearly posted in each classroom as a reminder of what is expected of them on a daily basis. Teachers are also in constant communication with parents as they are the first line of communication with our student body. Teachers communicate via e-mail, telephone calls, and in parent conferences so as a team they are able to provide the students a clear and united front to the students of the daily classroom and school expectations.

Students are sent to the administration only when all other measures have been exhausted by the classroom teacher. The school wide initiative is to make expectations clear to our students from the first day of school and to keep students actively engaged to minimize disruptive behaviors.

Students are rewarded for their positive actions by being nominated by teachers and peers for the "Do the right thing" initiative. Teachers also send "shout outs" via the announcements to students who demonstrate good behavior as well as other positive actions. ??

All classrooms have a Focus Wall set up daily by the classroom teacher which provides a blue print of what the students day will consist of. Each board has the objective, essential question, bell ringer, agenda, home learning, and vocabulary. Teachers also provide differentiated instruction through centers and small group. The goal of each classroom teacher is to ensure the safety of each student but also to have every student actively engaged in the learning environment by providing enrichment opportunities.

**Describe how the school ensures the social-emotional needs of all students are being met, which may include providing counseling, mentoring and other pupil services**

The overall well-being of Mater Academy of International Studies Charter School students is an integral part of our philosophy. Student Support Services seeks to provide support both in and out of the classroom in the areas of academic support, social-emotional development and physical well-being. The Mater Academy of International Studies Charter School Student Services Team consists

of a general education teacher, a part-time social worker and a school psychologist. These professionals work closely with students, parents, community agencies and school personnel to ensure that every student is provided the opportunity to maximize his or her social, emotional and intellectual abilities. The Student Services Team helps students to feel at ease with teachers and the school environment. Individual and group counseling sessions are conducted to address students' social and emotional needs. Conflict resolution training is provided to students. Teachers work diligently to prevent bullying and violence in the school and community. The Student Services Team meets with parents, teachers and school administration to discuss student academic and behavioral needs and to determine if students need assistance outside of the traditional classroom setting. Student Services Personnel welcome the opportunity to meet with parents, discuss concerns and assist students in any way possible. Counseling is included in every student's curricula at Mater Academy of International Studies Charter School.

### Early Warning Systems

The school's response to this section may be used to satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b)(1)(B)(ii)(III), (b)(1)(B)(iii)(I), and (b)(1)(I).

#### Describe the school's early warning system and provide a list of the early warning indicators used in the system

The school has hired a Social Worker that will be responsible for monitoring student attendance, suspensions, and course failures on a quarterly basis. All students scoring a Level 1 in ELA or Mathematics statewide, standardized assessments are monitored by administration and teachers through quarterly data chats that track previous state assessment data as well as current interim assessment data.

#### Provide the following data related to the school's early warning system

*The number of students by grade level that exhibit each early warning indicator:*

Indicator	Grade Level			Total
	6	7	8	
Attendance below 90 percent	8	3	0	11
One or more suspensions	15	0	2	17
Course failure in ELA or Math	5	6	6	17
Level 1 on statewide assessment	20	11	10	41

*The number of students identified by the system as exhibiting two or more early warning indicators:*

Indicator	Grade Level	Total
Students exhibiting two or more indicators		

#### Describe all intervention strategies employed by the school to improve the academic performance of students identified by the early warning system

The school has created a blueprint for success that includes the following strategies to improve the academic performance of the targeted students:  
After school tutoring program  
Saturday Academy  
Character Education Program  
Do the Right Thing Program  
School Wide Shout Outs

School Wide Quarterly Award Ceremonies

Student Code of Conduct

Reading and Math Interventions (both pull-out and push-in)

Software Programs (Achieve 3000, iReady, Carnegie Learning, Reflex Math, Mathletics)

In addition, the Social Worker will meet with parents and students exhibiting poor attendance patterns, disciplinary problems (especially those that result in suspension), and students not making adequate academic progress.

As part of their data chats, teachers will set goals with students scoring a Level 1 in ELA or Mathematics statewide, standardized assessments and differentiate instruction based on data compiled from interim assessments and other data sources. Parents will be included in these data chats.

All 6, 7, and 8th graders who scored a Level 1 or 2 on ELA or Mathematics statewide, standardized assessments will be enrolled in the required Intensive Reading or Intensive Math course that will supplement their core Language Arts and Mathematics classes.

In addition, all 6, 7, and 8th graders who scored a Level 1 or 2 on ELA or Mathematics statewide, standardized assessments will be included in the schools after school and Saturday tutoring program.

## Family and Community Involvement

The school's response to this section may be used to satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b)(1)(B)(iii)(I)(aa).

**Describe how the school works at building positive relationships with families to increase involvement, including efforts to communicate the school's mission and vision, and keep parents informed of their child's progress**

Title I schools use the Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) to meet the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b)(1)(F).

### Will the school use its PIP to satisfy this question?

Yes

#### **PIP Link**

The school completes a Parental Involvement Plan (PIP), which is accessible through the Continuous Improvement Management System (CIMS) at <https://www.floridacims.org/documents/49568>.

#### **Description**

A PIP has been uploaded for this school or district - see the link above.

**Describe the process by which the school builds and sustains partnerships with the local community for the purpose of securing and utilizing resources to support the school and student achievement**

The school builds and sustains partnerships with the local community by reaching out to local businesses via a letter or site visit to see if they are able to partner with us and offer material or in kind contributions. We also send a communication home with students, to see if any of their parents, relatives, or friends, who may own a business, or work for a business that wishes to partner with the school, can partner with us. All of our community and/or business partners are also invited to attend our annual Career Day, Reading Under the Stars, and Hispanic Heritage Day, and other celebrations where they are always recognized for their support.

Other components that are integrated into the school-wide program include:

Title I, Part A

Services are provided to ensure students requiring additional remediation are assisted through extended learning opportunities (before-school and/or after-school programs, Saturday Academy or summer school). The district coordinates with Title II and Title III in ensuring staff development needs are provided. Support services are provided to the schools, students, and families. School based, Title I funded Community Involvement Specialists (CIS), serve as bridge between the home and school through home visits, telephone calls, school site and community parenting activities. The CIS schedules

meetings and activities, encourage parents to support their child's education, provide materials, and encourage parental participation in the decision making processes at the school site. Curriculum Coaches develop, lead, and evaluate school core content standards/ programs; identify and analyze existing literature on scientifically based curriculum/behavior assessment and intervention approaches. They identify systematic patterns of student need while working with district personnel to identify appropriate, evidence-based intervention strategies; assist with whole school screening programs that provide early intervening services for children to be considered "at risk;" assist in the design and implementation for progress monitoring, data collection, and data analysis; participate in the design and delivery of professional development; and provide support for assessment and implementation monitoring. Parents participate in the design of their school's Parent Involvement Plan (PIP – which is provided in three languages at all schools), the school improvement process and the life of the school and the annual Title I Annual Parent Meeting at the beginning of the school year. The annual M-DCPS Title I Parent/Family Involvement Survey is intended to be used toward the end of the school year to measure the parent program over the course of the year and to facilitate an evaluation of the parent involvement program to inform planning for the following year. An all out effort is made to inform parents of the importance of this survey via CIS, Title I District and Region meetings, Title I Newsletter for Parents, and Title I Quarterly Parent Bulletins. This survey, available in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole, will be available online and via hard copy for parents (at schools and at District meetings) to complete. Other components that are integrated into the school-wide program include an extensive Parental Program; Title I CHESS (as appropriate); Supplemental Educational Services; and special support services to special needs populations such as homeless, migrant, and neglected and delinquent students.

#### Title I, Part C- Migrant

The school provides services and support to migrant students and parents. The District Migrant liaison coordinates with Title I and other programs and conducts a comprehensive needs assessment of migrant students to ensure that the unique needs of migrant students are met. Students are also provided extended learning opportunities (before-school and/or after-school, and summer school) by the Title I, Part C, Migrant Education Program.

#### Title I, Part D

N/A

#### Title II

The District uses supplemental funds for improving basic education as follows:

- Training to certify qualified mentors for the New Teacher (MINT) Program
- Training for add-on endorsement programs, such as Reading, Gifted, ESOL training and substitute release time for Professional Development Liaisons (PDL) at each school focusing on Professional Learning Community (PLC) development and facilitation, as well as Lesson Study Group implementation and protocols

#### Title III

Services are provided through district for education materials and ELL district support services to improve the education of immigrant and English language Learners.

Title III funds are used to supplement and enhance the programs for English Language Learner (ELL) and Recently Arrived Immigrant Children and Youth by providing funds to implement and/or provide:

- tutorial programs (K-12)
- professional development on best practices for ESOL and content area teachers
- coaching and mentoring for ESOL and content area teachers(K-12)
- reading and supplementary instructional materials(K-12)
- cultural supplementary instructional materials (K-12)
- purchase of supplemental hardware and software for the development of language and literacy skills in reading, mathematics and science, as well as, thematic cultural lessons is purchased for selected schools to be used by ELL students and recently arrived immigrant students (K-12, RFP Process)

The above services will be provided should funds become available for the 2014-2015 school year and should the FLDOE approve the application(s).

#### Title VI, Part B

N/A

#### Title X- Homeless

- Miami-Dade County Public Schools' School Board approved the School Board Policy 5111.01 titled, Homeless Students. The board policy defines the McKinney-Vento Law and ensures homeless students receive all the services they are entitled to.
- The Homeless Education Program seeks to ensure a successful educational experience for homeless children by collaborating with parents, schools, and the community.
- The Homeless Education Program assists schools with the identification, enrollment, attendance, and transportation of homeless students. All schools are eligible to receive services and will do so upon identification and classification of a student as homeless.
- The Staff in the Homeless Education Program provides annual training to: 1) School Registrars on the procedures for enrolling homeless students, 2) School Counselors on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act which ensures that homeless children and youth are not to be stigmatized, separated, segregated, or isolated on their status as homeless, and are provided all entitlements, and 3) all School Homeless Liaisons assigned by the school administrator to provide further details on the rights and services of students identified as homeless.
- Project Upstart and The Homeless Trust, a community organization, provides a homeless sensitivity, awareness campaign to all the schools - each school is provided a video and curriculum manual, and a contest is sponsored by The Homeless Trust-a community organization.
- Project Upstart provides tutoring and counseling to selected homeless shelters in the community.
- The District Homeless Liaison continues to participate in community organization meetings and task forces as it relates to homeless children and youth.
- Each school will identify a school-based School Homeless Liaison to be trained on the McKinney-Vento Law ensuring appropriate services are provided to the homeless students.

#### Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI)

N/A

#### Violence Prevention Programs

- The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program addresses violence and drug prevention and intervention services for students through curriculum implemented by classroom teachers, elementary counselors, and/or

#### TRUST Specialists.

- Training and technical assistance for elementary, middle, and senior high school teachers, administrators, counselors, and/or TRUST Specialists is also a component of this program.
- TRUST Specialists focus on counseling students to solve problems related to drugs and alcohol, stress, suicide, isolation, family violence, and other crises.
- District Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Miami Dade County Public Schools adopted Policy 5517.01, titled Bullying and Harassment. It is the policy of the Miami-Dade County Public School District that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. This policy provides awareness, prevention and education in promoting a school atmosphere in which bullying, harassment, and intimidation will not be tolerated by students, school board employees, visitors, or volunteers.

Administrators or designees are required to begin any investigation of bullying or harassment within 24 hours of an initial report.

All Staff, Students, and Parents/Volunteers MUST receive training on an annual basis.

Every school site is required to implement 5 curriculum lessons on Bullying and Violence Prevention per grade level Pre-K thru 12.

#### Nutrition Programs

1. The school adheres to and implements the nutrition requirements stated in the District Wellness Policy.
2. Nutrition education, as per state statute, is taught through physical education.
3. The School Food Service Program, school breakfast, school lunch, and after care snacks, follows the Healthy Food and Beverage Guidelines as adopted in the District's Wellness Policy.

Housing Programs  
 N/A  
 Head Start  
 N/A  
 Adult Education  
 N/A  
 Career and Technical Education  
 N/A  
 Job Training  
 N/A  
 Other  
 N/A

## Effective Leadership

The school's response to this section may be used to satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b)(1)(H).

### School Leadership Team

#### Membership

Identify the name, email address and position title for each member of the school leadership team.:

Name	Title
Melian, Ileana	Principal
Camarena, Olga	Assistant Principal
Plantada, Christopher	Assistant Principal
Rodriguez, Tannia	Instructional Coach

#### Duties

**Describe the roles and responsibilities of the members, including how they serve as instructional leaders and practice shared decision making**

Ileana Melian- Principal  
 Olga Camarena- Assistant Principal  
 Christopher Plantada- Assistant Principal  
 Tannia Rodriguez- Curriculum/Reading Coach  
 Christina Betancourt- SPED Program Specialist  
 Rosa Verde- Social Worker  
 Elizabeth Sauri- Middle School Team Leader, Science Chair, Science Fair Coordinator  
 Lourdes Geller- Math Chair

**Describe the process through which school leadership identifies and aligns all available resources (e.g., personnel, instructional, curricular) in order to meet the needs of all students and maximize desired student outcomes. Include the methodology for coordinating and supplementing federal, state and local funds, services and programs. Provide the person(s) responsible, frequency of meetings, how an inventory of resources is maintained and any problem-solving activities used to determine how to apply resources for the highest impact**

Mater Academy of International Studies' leadership team follows specific guidelines when aligning and purchasing resources for the school in order to meet the needs of all students. At the start of every year, teachers are provided a box of classroom essentials. The materials include staplers, construction paper, glue, pens, pencils, among other things. An inventory of resources is collected at the beginning and end of every school year. The inventory includes the instructional

materials, curricular materials, technology, and classroom furniture in the individual teachers' classrooms. The instructional materials list are separated by subject area. The leadership team reviews the inventory and creates a spreadsheet by grade level of materials within the building. The leadership team discusses the effectiveness of the instructional materials in terms of alignment to the standards. Research is done to ensure that the materials are up-to-date with the current standards. The materials are compared to the district-adopted materials and pacing guides that are correlated to the standards. According to the information that is gathered, the team decides if purchases need to be made. Software programs are also evaluated for effectiveness and fidelity. The team reviews usage and performance reports to analyze student progress on the programs. The programs are checked for standards alignments and decisions are made for renewal. Purchases are made based on the projected number of students for the new school year. intervention and tutoring material estimates are based on Standardized assessment data. The administration will brainstorm on how the purchasing of materials will affect the budget and determine the best option on how to allocate funds and what account the funds will come from. The EESAC committee approves the funding of programs and materials throughout the school year. Leadership meetings are held weekly. Within the meetings instructional and curricular materials are analyzed by performance reports, bi-weekly spreadsheets and observations conducted by the team.

### School Advisory Council (SAC)

#### Membership

Identify the name and stakeholder group for each member of the SAC.:

Name	Stakeholder Group
Elizabeth Sauri	Teacher
Ileana Melian	Principal
Ana Murillo	Parent
Lourdes Geller	Teacher
Elizabeth Rodriguez	Parent
Veronica Fontella	Parent
Issac Castillo	Student
Albieri De Jesus	Student
Mary Anne Lukacs	Business/Community
Robert Blanche	Business/Community
Vernice Fernandez	Parent
Tamara Millo	Teacher
Mayerli Piedra	Parent

#### Duties

**Provide a description of the SAC's involvement with the following activities, as required by section 1001.452(2), Florida Statutes**

##### *Evaluation of last year's school improvement plan*

Last year's school improvement plan was evaluated and approved by the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council(EESAC) on 10/01/2013. The school improvement plan is revisited at every EESAC meeting. Areas of strength and areas in need of further improvement are discussed. Strategies for improvement are shared and input is received from stakeholders.

##### *Development of this school improvement plan*

The current school improvement plan was evaluated and approved by the EESAC on 10/08/2014. The school improvement plan is revisited at every EESAC meeting. Areas of strength and areas in need of further improvement are discussed. Strategies for improvement are shared and input is received from stakeholders.

*Preparation of the school's annual budget and plan*

The preparation of the school's annual budget and plan is done in collaboration with school administration and stakeholders. The use of improvement funds is discussed and a plan for use of the funds is presented and reviewed by members of the ESSAC.

**Describe the use of school improvement funds allocated last year, including the amount budgeted for each project**

School Improvement Funds were used to offer free tutoring to our struggling students especially those students in the lowest 25% category. The funds received helped pay for the cost of workbooks and other resources used in the tutoring program.

**Verify that the school is in compliance with section 1001.452, Florida Statutes, regarding the establishment requirements and duties of the SAC**

Yes

*If the school is not in compliance, describe the measures being implemented to meet SAC requirements*

**Literacy Leadership Team (LLT)**

**Membership**

Identify the name, email address and position title for each member of the school-based LLT.:

Name	Title
Melian, Ileana	Principal
Camarena, Olga	Assistant Principal
Plantada, Christopher	Assistant Principal
Rodriguez, Tannia	Instructional Coach

**Duties**

**Describe how the LLT promotes literacy within the school**

The purpose of the Reading Leadership Team is to create capacity of reading knowledge within the school building and focus on areas of literacy concern across the school. The principal, reading coach, mentor reading teachers, content area teachers, and other principal appointees should serve on this team which should meet at least once a month.

The principal selects team members for the Reading Leadership Team (LLT) based on a cross section of the faculty and administrative team that represents highly qualified professionals who are interested in serving to improve literacy instruction across the curriculum. The reading coach must be a member of the Reading Leadership Team. The team will meet monthly throughout the school year. Additionally, the principal may expand the LLT by encouraging personnel from various sources such as District and Regional support staff to join. The LLT maintains a connection to the school's Response to Intervention process by using the RtI problem solving approach to ensure that a multi-tiered system of reading support is present and effective.

The major initiatives supported and implemented by this team include implementation of the CRRP, Common Core Curriculum, and the MTSS RtI problem solving process. The LLT will focus on assisting teachers with making clear connections between assessment data and targeted



differentiated instruction as well as increasing the rigor of instruction.

Literacy Leadership Teams will be encouraged and supported in developing Lesson Studies to focus on developing and implementing instructional routines that use complex text and incorporate text dependent questions. Multi-disciplinary teams will develop lessons that provide students with opportunities for research and incorporate writing throughout.

In addition, the LLC will promote the continued implementation of Reading initiatives such as Achieve 3000 and Accelerated Reader that are created to motivate students to read as well as to promote literacy throughout the school. In addition this team will:

- Initiate a school-wide instructional focus calendar that incorporates reading strategies and best practices from evidence based research to be taught in every content area.
- Implement a writing plan across the curriculum
- Incorporate a school-wide reading initiative as an incentive system to use with Accelerated Reader to encourage and motivate students to read independently.
- Implementing reading intervention/ enrichment programs through Cengage Learning Inside, Reading Plus, and Achieve 3000
- Host a Scholastic Book Fair to promote literacy
- Host a school-wide literacy night (Reading Under the Stars)
- Monitor and implement literacy software programs
- Facilitate the use of the media center as a location to indulge in reading activities

## Public and Collaborative Teaching

The school's response to this section may be used to satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b)(1)(D).

### **Describe the school's strategies to encourage positive working relationships between teachers, including collaborative planning and instruction**

The overall school culture is one of a collaborative joint effort. To encourage positive working relationships between teachers, a variety of strategies continue to be implemented at different levels: Grade Level Meetings- These are held once per week and are led by a highly effective teacher with experience who can share best practices with team members. At grade level meetings, teachers prepare and discuss lesson plans, design focus calendars, analyze practices and make collectively agree to implement instructional strategies as needed in their respective classrooms.

Mentor/Mentee program- Within grade levels, first year teachers and teachers that may be identified as struggling are assigned a mentor who has been identified as highly effective. The mentor assists the mentee with instructional planning, opportunities to informally learn best practices, and discuss outcomes of said practices being implemented. This fosters a positive environment in which teachers learn from their peers.

At the school-wide level:

Vertical-Alignment Meetings- These are held once per year between two consecutive grade levels to discuss how to assist in instructional planning geared towards preparing students with the needed concepts as prerequisites to be successful the following year.

Opportunities for ongoing Formal and Informal Professional Development- Teachers who have attended professional development teach their peers informally what they have learned and are implementing in their own classrooms. This promotes shared accountability for school wide initiatives and an opportunity for the "instructor" to feel successful as the rest of the staff provide review and critique the delivery of the in-service. Some of these opportunities will evolve into professional learning communities or lesson studies in which they are implemented and examined further.

"Buddy" Program- Four times in the year, once per quarter. Teachers are assigned a partner from a different department. Together the teachers collaborate to design opportunities for their classes to share in meaningful learning experiences. By designing lessons and activities in which their students develop connections with each other, the teachers work as partners and develop richer ties with each other as well.

Team Building Workshops- To build camaraderie.

## **Describe the school's strategies to recruit, develop and retain highly qualified, certified-in-field, effective teachers to the school**

1. Advertise positions
2. Job Fairs
3. Reach out to local colleges and universities
4. Hiring process requires candidates to interview with two interview panels
5. Assign mentor teachers
6. Assign grade level chairs
7. Provide and promote professional development
8. Involve teachers in decision making process through leadership teams.

## **Describe the school's teacher mentoring program, including the rationale for pairings and planned mentoring activities**

Based on student data, classroom walk-through observations the administration team will identify classroom teachers who are successfully implementing the essential elements of reading, math, Science and social studies. These classrooms will be established as model classrooms for other teachers to visit. Teachers in need of support may have an opportunity to observe a model classroom in action, practice the new behavior in a safe context and apply the behavior with peer support in the classroom. The mentor level teachers will be utilized in each area of the professional development plan that helps and supports teachers to strengthen their teaching skills in reading, build school site capacity, and provide for the follow-up activities that extend the application of new knowledge to impact student achievement. Mentor level teachers will be utilized within their classrooms to network and model exemplary teaching strategies and techniques for staff as needed. In order to maximize professional development activities at the school site, school administrators and mentor level teachers will articulate and coordinate the plan for professional growth showing differentiation, as needed, within the staff.

Mentor: Lourdes Geller Mentee: Raquel Carvajal Rational for Pairing: Beginning teacher

Mentor: Elizabeth Sauri Mentee: Meili Hsu Rational: Teacher New to School

Mentor: Elizabeth Sauri/ Martha Estrada Mentee: Sonia De la Torre Rational: Foreign exchange teacher

Planned Mentoring Activities:

Mentor will observe one lesson a month in the mentee's classroom and will give her feedback accordingly. Mentor and mentee will collaborate weekly for lesson planning. Mentee will observe other experienced teachers from the staff as determined by the mentor and will debrief about his/her observations with the mentor. Mentor and mentee will meet on an ongoing basis for support and guidance on lesson planning, grade book criteria, setting up and maintaining an intervention schedule as needed, and develop a classroom management plan as necessary.

## **Ambitious Instruction and Learning**

### **Instructional Programs and Strategies**

#### **Instructional Programs**

#### ***Describe how the school ensures its core instructional programs and materials are aligned to Florida's standards***

Florida has adopted and amended the Common Core Standards. The new Florida Standards provide focus on in-depth critical-thinking and problem solving skills rather than rote memorization and "teaching to the test." The pacing guides designed by Miami Dade County Public School were designed to reflect and align to the new Florida Standards. Our school ensures that the core instructional programs and strategies are directly correlated to the adopted curriculum and pacing created by the MDCPS.

This differentiated instruction may be on grade level with special attention to the needs of each student. In addition to the 90-plus minutes, the classroom teacher, special education teacher, or

reading resource teacher will provide immediate intensive intervention to children in need (as determined by a diagnostic assessment).

### **Instructional Strategies**

***Describe how the school uses data to provide and differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of students. Provide examples of how instruction is modified or supplemented to assist students having difficulty attaining the proficient or advanced level on state assessments***

Students at Mater Academy Middle of International studies sat with a counselor or an administrator at the close of the previous school year to complete the subject selection process. Based on their performance on state exams, teacher recommendations, and parent approval (for advanced or honors classes) students are enrolled in either intensive, regular, or advanced/honors classes. Students excelling in Language Arts are encouraged to enroll in the grade appropriate Advanced section. In addition to the core Language Arts class all students are enrolled in either advanced Reading or Intensive Reading.

Students excelling in mathematics are encouraged to enroll in the grade appropriate Advanced section or in Algebra 1. All students are also enrolled in either Intensive Math or Critical Thinking Skills, where the teacher can target student strengths and weaknesses.

Students excelling in Science are encouraged to enroll in the grade appropriate Advanced section or in Biology Honors.

Throughout the school year, data chats are held with each teacher to discuss school wide, grade level, and individual student data. Teachers are expected to differentiate instruction in accordance with the data. Teachers hold individual data chats with all students and parent conferences with those in the lowest 25%. Students set goals based on their individual data chats and teachers differentiate instruction to help students achieve their goal.

The school program specialist works with the teachers to ensure that all all ESE and Rtl students are being serviced properly.

***Provide the following information for each strategy the school uses to increase the amount and quality of learning time and help enrich and accelerate the curriculum:***

**Strategy: After School Program**

**Minutes added to school year: 4,260**

Mater Academy of International Studies Tutoring Program meets twice a week for 60 minutes. The program targets the lowest 25th percentile students in 6th-8th grade and runs for 25 weeks during the school year. In addition, Level 1 ESOL students meet once a week for an additional 60 minutes.

***Strategy Rationale***

This strategy will serve the purpose of providing additional enrichment to students working below grade-level or having difficulties on specific grade-level benchmarks. Students will benefit from being in a small group setting where their specific needs can be met.

***Strategy Purpose(s)***

- Enrichment

***Person(s) responsible for monitoring implementation of the strategy***

Rodriguez, Tannia, trodriguez@dadeschools.net

***Data that is or will be collected and how it is analyzed to determine effectiveness of the strategy***

Prior to the beginning of the tutoring sessions, the leadership team and teachers will meet to analyze the data of the lowest 25 percentile by grade. The team will use the interactive data spreadsheets provided by Mr. Hermes Ortiz. The team will gather information on students' specific areas of weaknesses. The targeted benchmarks will be scheduled into a tutoring focus calendar and will be aligned to the tutoring curriculum that will be implemented in the program. The leadership team will complete this process and adjust goals as it pertains to new data received from the interim benchmark assessments.

In addition, a pretest is given at the beginning of each tutoring session and the same post test is given on the last day of each tutoring session. The tests will be graded and compared to determine student progress from the beginning of the year. The leadership team will also use the Interim Exams and student report cards to determine whether students are making adequate progress and the extended learning programs are benefiting the students.

**Strategy: Weekend Program**

**Minutes added to school year: 1,200**

Students participating in the Saturday Academy program will meet once a week, every Saturday over a ten week period. Students will receive re-mediated instruction aligned to the Florida/ Common Core Standards in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics.

**Strategy Rationale**

This strategy will serve the purpose of providing additional enrichment to students working below grade-level or having difficulties on specific grade-level benchmarks. Students will benefit from being in a small group setting where their specific needs can be met.

**Strategy Purpose(s)**

- Enrichment

**Person(s) responsible for monitoring implementation of the strategy**

Rodriguez, Tannia, trodriguez@dadeschools.net

**Data that is or will be collected and how it is analyzed to determine effectiveness of the strategy**

Prior to the beginning of the tutoring sessions, the leadership team and teachers will meet to analyze the data of the lowest 25 percentile by grade. The team will use the interactive data spreadsheets provided by Mr. Hermes Ortiz. The team will gather information on students' specific areas of weaknesses. The targeted benchmarks will be scheduled into a tutoring focus calendar and will be aligned to the tutoring curriculum that will be implemented in the program. The leadership team will complete this process and adjust goals as it pertains to new data received from the interim benchmark assessments.

A pretest will be given at the beginning of each tutoring session and the same post test will be given on the last day of each tutoring session. The tests are graded and compared to determine student progress from the beginning of the year. The leadership team will also use the Interim Exams and student report cards to determine whether students are making adequate progress and the extended learning programs are benefiting the students.

**Student Transition and Readiness**

**PreK-12 Transition**

The school's response to this question may be used to satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b)(1)(G).

**Describe the strategies the school employs to support incoming and outgoing cohorts of students in transition from one school level to another**

Orientation, Open House night, and parent/student information meetings are scheduled throughout the school year with administration, teachers, and the social worker to keep families informed of state, district, and school policies and other information pertaining to student progression.

**College and Career Readiness**

**Describe the strategies the school uses to advance college and career awareness, which may include establishing partnerships with business, industry or community organizations**

Mater Academy of International Studies promotes academic and career planning by organizing a Career Day dedicated to different careers. Community professionals from a variety of careers volunteer their time to share what they do with the students at our school. Students have the

opportunity to interact with professionals from areas of their own individual interests and also share discussions and ask questions that relate to the tasks and responsibilities within that career.

***Identify the career and technical education programs available to students and industry certifications that may be earned through those respective programs***

Students in eighth grade are enrolled in a US History and Career Planning course where students complete a personalized academic and career plan. In this course students are informed of high school graduation requirements, high school assessments, college entrance exam requirements (SAT, ACT), scholarship programs, college admission requirements, vocational programs, and ways to earn college credit in high school.

***Describe efforts the school has taken to integrate career and technical education with academic courses (e.g., industrial biotechnology) to support student achievement***

The Achieve 3000 software program our students utilize has a career component called the Career Center. The Career Center includes a list of career categories for students to explore. The students can expand the list to see the individual careers that may interest them. The program allows children to search information on their favorite careers. The information includes a description and responsibilities of the selected career and also includes the educational requirements for that career. Career and current Lexile scores are compared so students know how many Lexile levels they are away from reaching their career goals.

***Describe strategies for improving student readiness for the public postsecondary level based on annual analysis of the [High School Feedback Report](#), as required by section 1008.37(4), Florida Statutes***

N/A

## School Improvement Goals

The following key is intended to help readers understand how the sections of this document correspond to the steps of the 8-step planning and problem-solving framework used in the School Improvement Plan. The Quick Key numbers can help registered users go directly to the point of entry for any given goal, barrier and strategy within the online survey.

### Problem Solving Key

**G** = Goal                      **B** =  
   Barrier                      **S** = Strategy

**1** = Problem Solving Step       S123456 = Quick Key

## Strategic Goals Summary

- G1.** Mater Academy of International Studies' Core Instruction Goal is to enhance student achievement in core curricular areas through writing as a tool for thinking and learning.
- G2.** Mater Academy of International Studies Early Warning Systems Goal is to improve student attendance, reduce suspensions, reduce the number of students who fail a course, and reduce the number of students who score a Level 1 on the ELA and Mathematics FSAs.
- G3.** Mater Academy of International Studies will increase the number of STEM related experiences provided to students.
- G4.** Mater Academy of International Studies is a designated Title I school and will adhere to the Parent Involvement Plan.

## Strategic Goals Detail

*For each strategic goal, this section lists the associated targets (i.e., "SMART goals"), resources available to support movement toward the goal, barriers to achieving the goal, and the plan for monitoring progress toward the goal*

**G1.** Mater Academy of International Studies' Core Instruction Goal is to enhance student achievement in core curricular areas through writing as a tool for thinking and learning. 1a

G047467

### Targets Supported 1b

Indicator	Annual Target
Middle School Performance in EOC and Industry Certifications	100.0
AMO Math - All Students	67.0
FSA - Mathematics - Proficiency Rate	77.0
Math Gains	82.0
Math Lowest 25% Gains	60.0
AMO Reading - All Students	71.0
FSA - English Language Arts - Proficiency Rate	66.0
ELA/Reading Gains	77.0
ELA/Reading Lowest 25% Gains	77.0
AMO Reading - African American	63.0
AMO Reading - Hispanic	72.0
AMO Reading - ELL	68.0
AMO Reading - ED	72.0
CELLA Listening/Speaking Proficiency	57.0
FCAT 2.0 Science Proficiency	46.0
CELLA Writing Proficiency	48.0
Algebra I EOC Pass Rate	100.0

### Resources Available to Support the Goal 2

- Highly Qualified Personnel, District Pacing Guides, District adopted curricular materials, Accelerated Reader, Achieve 3000, iReady, Carnegie Learning, Mathletics, Reflex Math, Thinkgate, Baseline/Interim Assessment Data

### Targeted Barriers to Achieving the Goal 3

- Reading and Writing are interlinking areas. Writing is a channel for communicating knowledge. The new standards for English Language Arts are placing a great emphasis on writing to respond to text. Teachers do not have sufficient experience in teaching constructed response/evidence based writing strategies and would benefit from additional professional development in this area. Students are also not equipped with the tools necessary to respond and cite evidence from text in writing and lack exposure to analytical writing across subject areas. Students who have difficulty in reading comprehension will find writing across the curriculum a struggle. In order to effectively respond to text, students should be skilled in the areas of Vocabulary, Reading Application, Literary analysis and Informational Text. The 2014 FCAT Reading results indicate that current sixth grade students scored lowest on Reading Applications, 63%, and Informational Text, 63% and an overall proficiency rate of 65%. Current seventh grade students scored lowest on Informational Text, 70% correct, and an overall proficiency rate of 78%. Current eighth grade students scored lowest in the Vocabulary category, 67% correct, and an overall proficiency rate of 79%. 42% of ELL students scored proficient on the Spring 2014 CELLA Writing Assessment. This demonstrates the difficulty ELL students have in writing to communicate ideas.



**Plan to Monitor Progress Toward G1. 8**

The following data will be collected and reviewed throughout the year by different teams to determine progress toward the goal: Diagnostic Assessments, Software program performance Reports, District Writing Post Assessment, District Interim Assessment Results, Bi-Weekly assessments. Administrative meetings, faculty meetings, and Literacy leadership team meetings will be conducted monthly to discuss the above data and the effectiveness of the strategy in relation to the data.

**Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

**Schedule**

Monthly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Meeting agendas, meeting minutes, sign in sheets, meeting logs, Year-at-a-Glance Reports, Thinkgate Interim reports, Software program performance Reports, Student Target Model, individual Student Performance Models, Student/ Teacher Data chats

**G2. Mater Academy of International Studies Early Warning Systems Goal** is to improve student attendance, reduce suspensions, reduce the number of students who fail a course, and reduce the number of students who score a Level 1 on the ELA and Mathematics FSAs. **1a**

G047792

**Targets Supported** **1b**

Indicator	Annual Target
Attendance rate	
Attendance Below 90%	
Attendance Below 90% Grade 06	12.0
Attendance Below 90% Grade 07	3.0
Attendance Below 90% Grade 08	0.0
Truancy rate	
One or More Suspensions	12.0
1+ Suspensions Grade 06	23.0
1+ Suspensions Grade 07	0.0
1+ Suspensions Grade 08	5.0
Students exhibiting two or more EWS indicators (Total)	
Students in sixth grade exhibiting two or more EWS indicators	
Students in seventh grade exhibiting two or more EWS indicators	
Students in eighth grade exhibiting two or more EWS indicators	
Level 1 - All Grades	
Level 1 - Grade 06	
Level 1 - Grade 07	
Level 1 - Grade 08	
Course Failures ELA	0.7
Course Failures Mathematics	10.7
2+ Course Failures - Middle Grades	

**Resources Available to Support the Goal** **2**

- Attendance Bulletin and Perfect Attendance Awards, Behavior Management Charts/Reports and Student of the Month Awards, and Gradebook/Progress Reports/Report Cards and Quarterly Academic Awards

**Targeted Barriers to Achieving the Goal** **3**

- Students lacking a strong foundation/ background knowledge in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

**Plan to Monitor Progress Toward G2. 8**

The following data will be collected and reviewed throughout the year by different teams to determine progress toward the goal: Diagnostic Assessments, Software program performance Reports, District Interim Assessment Results, Bi-Weekly assessments. Administrative meetings, faculty meetings, and Literacy leadership team meetings will be conducted monthly to discuss the above data and the effectiveness of the strategy in relation to the data.

**Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian


**Schedule**

Monthly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Meeting agendas, meeting minutes, sign in sheets, meeting logs, Year-at-a-Glance Reports, Thinkgate Interim reports, Software program performance Reports, Student Target Model, individual Student Performance Models, Student/ Teacher Data chats

**G3. Mater Academy of International Studies will increase the number of STEM related experiences provided to students. 1a**

 G047876

**Targets Supported 1b**

Indicator	Annual Target
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**Resources Available to Support the Goal 2**

- Math and Science instructional staff, Science lab, Gizmos, Science curriculum, Florida Stem Tips, www.stem.dadeschools.net, Math curriculum, Computer lab

**Targeted Barriers to Achieving the Goal 3**

- Lack of teacher organization/student participation in STEM related experiences (Miami Dade STEM expo, School/ District/ State Science Fairs, Fairchild Challenge, Clubs)

**Plan to Monitor Progress Toward G3. 8**

Administration will meet quarterly with STEM committee members and discuss the effectiveness of the strategy and why it is or is not working.

**Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

**Schedule**

Quarterly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Meeting agenda, sign-in sheet, minutes, projects

**G4.** Mater Academy of International Studies is a designated Title I school and will adhere to the Parent Involvement Plan. 1a

G050825

**Targets Supported** 1b

Indicator	Annual Target
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**Resources Available to Support the Goal** 2

**Targeted Barriers to Achieving the Goal** 3

## Action Plan for Improvement

*For each strategy selected in the plan to reduce a targeted barrier to a strategic goal, this section lists the rationale for that strategy (i.e., why the school believes it will reduce the barrier) and the action steps that have been identified as necessary to implementing the strategy, including details such as the point person, timing and duration, and evidence of completion. At the end of each set of action steps is the plan for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the respective strategy.*

### Problem Solving Key

**G** = Goal                      **B** =  
   Barrier                      **S** = Strategy

**1** = Problem Solving Step       S123456 = Quick Key

**G1.** Mater Academy of International Studies' Core Instruction Goal is to enhance student achievement in core curricular areas through writing as a tool for thinking and learning. 1

G047467

**G1.B1** Reading and Writing are interlinking areas. Writing is a channel for communicating knowledge. The new standards for English Language Arts are placing a great emphasis on writing to respond to text. Teachers do not have sufficient experience in teaching constructed response/evidence based writing strategies and would benefit from additional professional development in this area. Students are also not equipped with the tools necessary to respond and cite evidence from text in writing and lack exposure to analytical writing across subject areas. Students who have difficulty in reading comprehension will find writing across the curriculum a struggle. In order to effectively respond to text, students should be skilled in the areas of Vocabulary, Reading Application, Literary analysis and Informational Text. The 2014 FCAT Reading results indicate that current sixth grade students scored lowest on Reading Applications, 63%, and Informational Text, 63% and an overall proficiency rate of 65%. Current seventh grade students scored lowest on Informational Text, 70% correct, and an overall proficiency rate of 78%. Current eighth grade students scored lowest in the Vocabulary category, 67% correct, and an overall proficiency rate of 79%. 42% of ELL students scored proficient on the Spring 2014 CELLA Writing Assessment. This demonstrates the difficulty ELL students have in writing to communicate ideas. 2

B118348

**G1.B1.S1** Teachers will implement evidence based writing and extended responses as part of an instructional framework to support students in the production of coherent writing. Students will have Constructed Response Journals where they will cite evidence, note observations, highlight main points, create graphic organizers, etc. to promote understanding in the specific curricular subject. 4

S130155

### Strategy Rationale

Writing that requires analysis and application, fosters critical thinking and other higher order thinking skills. Research studies have indicated that the process of analytic writing allows students to make connections, think critically, and organize thoughts that in turn will help them further comprehend the area of study. Using this strategy, students will be able to analyze, interpret, compare, and evaluate texts using clear and relevant evidence and incorporate problem solving into writing across all subject areas.

### Action Step 1 5

Reading teachers will use written response journals in which students will be required to cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

#### Person Responsible

Meili Hsu

#### Schedule

Daily, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

#### Evidence of Completion

Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)

## Action Step 2 5

English Language Arts teachers will incorporate process writing strategies in order to provide opportunities to become effective writer in different genres of evidence based, analytical writing-opinion and argumentative writing.

### **Person Responsible**

Tamara Millo

### **Schedule**

Daily, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

### ***Evidence of Completion***

Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)

## Action Step 3 5

The Mathematics teachers will use a problem of the day with a written response. Students will write the problem of the day in their journals and solve for accuracy. Once the students have solved the problem of the day they are to use their writing journal to explain their process. Students will follow a teacher made rubric on what is expected of their response. The students will read out their responses for immediate feedback.

### **Person Responsible**

Lourdes Geller

### **Schedule**

On 6/4/2015

### ***Evidence of Completion***

Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)

#### Action Step 4 5

The Science teachers will create a daily bell ringer written response. Students will follow a teacher made rubric on what is expected of their response. In addition, Science teachers will integrate writing by providing students opportunities to create lab reports, annotate observations, write research, and create scientific brochures and materials.

##### **Person Responsible**

Elizabeth Sauri

##### **Schedule**

Daily, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

##### ***Evidence of Completion***

Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)

#### Action Step 5 5

Along with the Reading teachers, Social Sciences teachers will also use written response journals in which students will be required to cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

##### **Person Responsible**

Steven Burgos

##### **Schedule**

On 6/4/2015

##### ***Evidence of Completion***

Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)



### Action Step 6 5

Administrators and teachers will be provided professional development opportunities through workshops, PLCs, and lesson studies to acquire various effective writing techniques to incorporate during instruction.

#### **Person Responsible**

Tannia Rodriguez

#### **Schedule**

Quarterly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

#### **Evidence of Completion**

PD sign-in sheets, PD agendas, PD follow-up activities, Observation of use instructional strategies

### Action Step 7 5

Before and After School Tutoring will be provided for ELL students and students in the lowest 25%. Tutoring will reflect writing to learn strategies in the enrichment programs provided after school and Saturday tutoring sessions.

#### **Person Responsible**

Tannia Rodriguez

#### **Schedule**

Weekly, from 9/16/2014 to 4/9/2015

#### **Evidence of Completion**

Tutoring Logs, Attendance, Pre and Post assessments.

### Plan to Monitor Fidelity of Implementation of G1.B1.S1 6

The leadership team will conduct informal and formal observations of teachers in order to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the strategy.

#### **Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

#### **Schedule**

Weekly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

#### **Evidence of Completion**

ASSESSA APP reports, observation checklists, IPEG evaluations.

**Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G1.B1.S1 7**

Bi-weekly assessments will indicate student progress throughout the school year in specific content areas. This will provide useful insight to see if writing is enhancing instructing.

**Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

**Schedule**

Biweekly, from 9/15/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Teacher Excel spreadsheets of student performance on bi-weekly assessments

**Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G1.B1.S1 7**

Interim assessment results will indicate student growth throughout the school year as it pertains to process writing in argumentative and opinion pieces.

**Person Responsible**

Christopher Plantada

**Schedule**

Quarterly, from 10/27/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Thinkgate Writing/ Interim reports, Student Target Model, individual Student Performance Models, Student/ Teacher Data chats

**Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G1.B1.S1 7**

Teachers will provide input at grade-level meetings and will provide their notes through their grade-level meeting minutes handout.

**Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

**Schedule**

Weekly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Meeting minutes

**Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G1.B1.S1** 7

Educational Software program performance reports

**Person Responsible**

Tannia Rodriguez

**Schedule**

Monthly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Achieve 3000 performance reports, I-Ready on-going progress monitoring reports, Mathletics performance reports, Carnegie performance reports

**G2.** Mater Academy of International Studies Early Warning Systems Goal is to improve student attendance, reduce suspensions, reduce the number of students who fail a course, and reduce the number of students who score a Level 1 on the ELA and Mathematics FSAs. 1

G047792

**G2.B3** Students lacking a strong foundation/ background knowledge in English Language Arts and Mathematics. 2

B124184

**G2.B3.S1** Students scoring a Level 1 or 2 on 2013/2014 state assessments will receive extra support in English Language Arts and Math through after school and Saturday tutoring. These students will also be enrolled in Intensive Reading and Intensive Math Courses. 4

S136109

**Strategy Rationale**

Smaller classes and more exposure will help reinforce skills being taught in the core English Language Arts and Math courses.

**Action Step 1** 5

Identify students who scored a level 1 or level 2 on the 2013/2014 ELA and Math state assessments as well as students in the lowest 25% and provide them tutoring before school, after school, and Saturday tutoring.

**Person Responsible**

Tannia Rodriguez

**Schedule**

Weekly, from 9/16/2014 to 4/9/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Tutoring Logs, Attendance, Pre and Post assessments.

## Action Step 2 5

Identify students who scored a level 1 or level 2 on the 2013/2014 ELA and Math state assessments and enroll them in the appropriate Intensive Reading and/or Intensive Math courses.

### **Person Responsible**

Christopher Plantada

### **Schedule**

Daily, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

### **Evidence of Completion**

Student schedules

## Plan to Monitor Fidelity of Implementation of G2.B3.S1 6

The leadership team will conduct informal and formal observations of teachers in order to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the strategy.

### **Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

### **Schedule**

Weekly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

### **Evidence of Completion**

ASSESSA APP reports, observation checklists, IPEG evaluations.

## Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G2.B3.S1 7

Bi-weekly assessments provided by the Intensive Reading and Intensive Math teachers will indicate student progress throughout the school year in the specific content areas.

### **Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

### **Schedule**

Biweekly, from 9/15/2014 to 6/4/2015

### **Evidence of Completion**

Teacher Excel spreadsheets of student performance on bi-weekly assessments.

**G3.** Mater Academy of International Studies will increase the number of STEM related experiences provided to students. 1

G047876

**G3.B2** Lack of teacher organization/student participation in STEM related experiences (Miami Dade STEM expo, School/ District/ State Science Fairs, Fairchild Challenge, Clubs 2

B124249

**G3.B2.S1** Provide students with increased opportunities for authentic hands on activities that integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. 4

S136174

### Strategy Rationale

Exposing students to STEM related experiences will increase student achievement in STEM curriculum and enhance career and college readiness.

### Action Step 1 5

Establish a school committee of teachers responsible for promoting STEM related experiences.

#### Person Responsible

Elizabeth Sauri

#### Schedule

Monthly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

#### Evidence of Completion

Sign in sheets, meeting minutes, school participation in stem related experiences

### Plan to Monitor Fidelity of Implementation of G3.B2.S1 6

Administration will monitor student participation in STEM related experiences both in and out of the classroom.

#### Person Responsible

Ileana Melian

#### Schedule

Monthly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

#### Evidence of Completion

Sign in sheets, agendas, student projects, awards, registration forms for community STEM related experiences

**Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G3.B2.S1 7**

Bi-weekly assessments provided by the Science and Math teachers will indicate student progress throughout the school year in the specific content areas.

**Person Responsible**

Ileana Melian

**Schedule**

Biweekly, from 9/15/2014 to 6/4/2015

**Evidence of Completion**

Teacher Excel spreadsheets of student performance on bi-weekly assessments.

**Plan to Monitor Effectiveness of Implementation of G3.B2.S1 7**

Increased Science Fair participation

**Person Responsible**

Elizabeth Sauri

**Schedule**

On 12/12/2014

**Evidence of Completion**

Science Fair rosters, graded assignments

**Appendix 1: Implementation Timeline**

*Action steps and monitoring activities identified in the SIP as necessary to achieve the school's goals.*

Source	Task, Action Step or Monitoring Activity	Who	Start Date (where applicable)	Deliverable or Evidence of Completion	Due Date/ End Date
G1.B1.S1.A1	Reading teachers will use written response journals in which students will be required to cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Hsu, Meili	8/18/2014	Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)	6/4/2015 daily
G2.B3.S1.A1	Identify students who scored a level 1 or level 2 on the 2013/2014 ELA and Math state assessments as well as students in the lowest 25% and provide them tutoring before school, after school, and Saturday tutoring.	Rodriguez, Tannia	9/16/2014	Tutoring Logs, Attendance, Pre and Post assessments.	4/9/2015 weekly
G3.B2.S1.A1	Establish a school committee of teachers responsible for promoting STEM related experiences.	Sauri, Elizabeth	8/18/2014	Sign in sheets, meeting minutes, school participation in stem related experiences	6/4/2015 monthly
G1.B1.S1.A2	English Language Arts teachers will incorporate process writing strategies in	Millo, Tamara	8/18/2014	Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls,	6/4/2015 daily

Source	Task, Action Step or Monitoring Activity	Who	Start Date (where applicable)	Deliverable or Evidence of Completion	Due Date/ End Date
	order to provide opportunities to become effective writer in different genres of evidence based, analytical writing- opinion and argumentative writing.			Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)	
G2.B3.S1.A2	Identify students who scored a level 1 or level 2 on the 2013/2014 ELA and Math state assessments and enroll them in the appropriate Intensive Reading and/ or Intensive Math courses.	Plantada, Christopher	8/18/2014	Student schedules	6/4/2015 daily
G1.B1.S1.A3	The Mathematics teachers will use a problem of the day with a written response. Students will write the problem of the day in their journals and solve for accuracy. Once the students have solved the problem of the day they are to use their writing journal to explain their process. Students will follow a teacher made rubric on what is expected of their response. The students will read out their responses for immediate feedback.	Geller, Lourdes	8/18/2014	Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)	6/4/2015 one-time
G1.B1.S1.A4	The Science teachers will create a daily bell ringer written response. Students will follow a teacher made rubric on what is expected of their response. In addition, Science teachers will integrate writing by providing students opportunities to create lab reports, annotate observations, write research, and create scientific brochures and materials.	Sauri, Elizabeth	8/18/2014	Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)	6/4/2015 daily
G1.B1.S1.A5	Along with the Reading teachers, Social Sciences teachers will also use written response journals in which students will be required to cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Burgos, Steven	8/18/2014	Instructional routines, lesson plans, samples of student work, Focus walls, Common board configuration, informal classroom observations (walk-throughs, ASSESSA), formal observations (IPEGS)	6/4/2015 one-time
G1.B1.S1.A6	Administrators and teachers will be provided professional development opportunities through workshops, PLCs, and lesson studies to acquire various effective writing techniques to incorporate during instruction.	Rodriguez, Tannia	8/18/2014	PD sign-in sheets, PD agendas, PD follow-up activities, Observation of use instructional strategies	6/4/2015 quarterly
G1.B1.S1.A7	Before and After School Tutoring will be provided for ELL students and students in the lowest 25%. Tutoring will reflect writing to learn strategies in the enrichment programs provided after school and Saturday tutoring sessions.	Rodriguez, Tannia	9/16/2014	Tutoring Logs, Attendance, Pre and Post assessments.	4/9/2015 weekly
G1.MA1	The following data will be collected and reviewed throughout the year by different teams to determine progress toward the goal: Diagnostic Assessments, Software program performance Reports, District Writing Post Assessment, District Interim Assessment Results, Bi-Weekly assessments. Administrative meetings, faculty meetings, and Literacy leadership team meetings will be conducted monthly to discuss the above data and the effectiveness of the strategy in relation to the data.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	Meeting agendas, meeting minutes, sign in sheets, meeting logs, Year-at-a-Glance Reports, Thinkgate Interim reports, Software program performance Reports, Student Target Model, individual Student Performance Models, Student/ Teacher Data chats	6/4/2015 monthly

Source	Task, Action Step or Monitoring Activity	Who	Start Date (where applicable)	Deliverable or Evidence of Completion	Due Date/ End Date
G1.B1.S1.MA1	Bi-weekly assessments will indicate student progress throughout the school year in specific content areas. This will provide useful insight to see if writing is enhancing instructing.	Melian, Ileana	9/15/2014	Teacher Excel spreadsheets of student performance on bi-weekly assessments	6/4/2015 biweekly
G1.B1.S1.MA4	Interim assessment results will indicate student growth throughout the school year as it pertains to process writing in argumentative and opinion pieces.	Plantada, Christopher	10/27/2014	Thinkgate Writing/ Interim reports, Student Target Model, individual Student Performance Models, Student/ Teacher Data chats	6/4/2015 quarterly
G1.B1.S1.MA5	Teachers will provide input at grade-level meetings and will provide their notes through their grade-level meeting minutes handout.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	Meeting minutes	6/4/2015 weekly
G1.B1.S1.MA6	Educational Software program performance reports	Rodriguez, Tannia	8/18/2014	Achieve 3000 performance reports, I-Ready on-going progress monitoring reports, Mathletics performance reports, Carnegie performance reports	6/4/2015 monthly
G1.B1.S1.MA1	The leadership team will conduct informal and formal observations of teachers in order to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the strategy.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	ASSESSA APP reports, observation checklists, IPEG evaluations.	6/4/2015 weekly
G2.MA1	The following data will be collected and reviewed throughout the year by different teams to determine progress toward the goal: Diagnostic Assessments, Software program performance Reports, District Interim Assessment Results, Bi-Weekly assessments. Administrative meetings, faculty meetings, and Literacy leadership team meetings will be conducted monthly to discuss the above data and the effectiveness of the strategy in relation to the data.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	Meeting agendas, meeting minutes, sign in sheets, meeting logs, Year-at-a-Glance Reports, Thinkgate Interim reports, Software program performance Reports, Student Target Model, individual Student Performance Models, Student/ Teacher Data chats	6/4/2015 monthly
G2.B3.S1.MA1	Bi-weekly assessments provided by the Intensive Reading and Intensive Math teachers will indicate student progress throughout the school year in the specific content areas.	Melian, Ileana	9/15/2014	Teacher Excel spreadsheets of student performance on bi-weekly assessments.	6/4/2015 biweekly
G2.B3.S1.MA1	The leadership team will conduct informal and formal observations of teachers in order to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the strategy.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	ASSESSA APP reports, observation checklists, IPEG evaluations.	6/4/2015 weekly
G3.MA1	Administration will meet quarterly with STEM committee members and discuss the effectiveness of the strategy and why it is or is not working.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	Meeting agenda, sign-in sheet, minutes, projects	6/4/2015 quarterly
G3.B2.S1.MA1	Bi-weekly assessments provided by the Science and Math teachers will indicate student progress throughout the school year in the specific content areas.	Melian, Ileana	9/15/2014	Teacher Excel spreadsheets of student performance on bi-weekly assessments.	6/4/2015 biweekly
G3.B2.S1.MA3	Increased Science Fair participation	Sauri, Elizabeth	12/8/2014	Science Fair rosters, graded assignments	12/12/2014 one-time
G3.B2.S1.MA1	Administration will monitor student participation in STEM related experiences both in and out of the classroom.	Melian, Ileana	8/18/2014	Sign in sheets, agendas, student projects, awards, registration forms for community STEM related experiences	6/4/2015 monthly

## Appendix 2: Professional Development and Technical Assistance Outlines

Professional development opportunities and technical assistance items identified in the SIP as action steps to achieve the school's goals.



## Professional Development Opportunities

*Professional development opportunities identified in the SIP as action steps to achieve the school's goals.*

**G1.** Mater Academy of International Studies' Core Instruction Goal is to enhance student achievement in core curricular areas through writing as a tool for thinking and learning.

**G1.B1** Reading and Writing are interlinking areas. Writing is a channel for communicating knowledge. The new standards for English Language Arts are placing a great emphasis on writing to respond to text. Teachers do not have sufficient experience in teaching constructed response/evidence based writing strategies and would benefit from additional professional development in this area. Students are also not equipped with the tools necessary to respond and cite evidence from text in writing and lack exposure to analytical writing across subject areas. Students who have difficulty in reading comprehension will find writing across the curriculum a struggle. In order to effectively respond to text, students should be skilled in the areas of Vocabulary, Reading Application, Literary analysis and Informational Text. The 2014 FCAT Reading results indicate that current sixth grade students scored lowest on Reading Applications, 63%, and Informational Text, 63% and an overall proficiency rate of 65%. Current seventh grade students scored lowest on Informational Text, 70% correct, and an overall proficiency rate of 78%. Current eighth grade students scored lowest in the Vocabulary category, 67% correct, and an overall proficiency rate of 79%. 42% of ELL students scored proficient on the Spring 2014 CELLA Writing Assessment. This demonstrates the difficulty ELL students have in writing to communicate ideas.

**G1.B1.S1** Teachers will implement evidence based writing and extended responses as part of an instructional framework to support students in the production of coherent writing. Students will have Constructed Response Journals where they will cite evidence, note observations, highlight main points, create graphic organizers, etc. to promote understanding in the specific curricular subject.

### PD Opportunity 1

Administrators and teachers will be provided professional development opportunities through workshops, PLCs, and lesson studies to acquire various effective writing techniques to incorporate during instruction.

#### Facilitator

Tannia Rodriguez- Literacy Coach

#### Participants

Teachers and Administrators

#### Schedule

Quarterly, from 8/18/2014 to 6/4/2015

## Budget Rollup

### Summary

Description	Total
<b>Goal 1:</b> Mater Academy of International Studies' Core Instruction Goal is to enhance student achievement in core curricular areas through writing as a tool for thinking and learning.	955
<b>Goal 2:</b> Mater Academy of International Studies Early Warning Systems Goal is to improve student attendance, reduce suspensions, reduce the number of students who fail a course, and reduce the number of students who score a Level 1 on the ELA and Mathematics FSAs.	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>955</b>

### Goal 1: Mater Academy of International Studies' Core Instruction Goal is to enhance student achievement in core curricular areas through writing as a tool for thinking and learning.

Description	Source	Total
<b>B1.S1.A7</b> - School Improvement Funds for the 2014-2015 school year will be used to offer free tutoring to our struggling students especially those students in the lowest 25% category. The \$955 that the SAC receives will help pay for the cost of workbooks and other resources used in the tutoring program.	School Improvement Funds	955
<b>Total Goal 1</b>		<b>955</b>

### Goal 2: Mater Academy of International Studies Early Warning Systems Goal is to improve student attendance, reduce suspensions, reduce the number of students who fail a course, and reduce the number of students who score a Level 1 on the ELA and Mathematics FSAs.

Description	Source	Total
<b>B3.S1.A1</b> - Duplicate budget line from goal 1: School Improvement Funds for the 2014-2015 school year will be used to offer free tutoring to our struggling students especially those students in the lowest 25% category. The \$955 that the SAC receives will help pay for the cost of workbooks and other resources used in the tutoring program.	School Improvement Funds	0
<b>Total Goal 2</b>		<b>0</b>