



SAVES

The English Center, A SAVES Flagship

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

The SAVES Program, offered through Miami Dade County Public Schools, is provided at 16 different adult education centers throughout Miami-Dade County. This makes SAVES the most accessible refugee-funded adult education program in Florida, and it is also why the program enrolled over 4,000 eligible clients in each of the three trimesters for academic year 2007-2008.

One of the flagship centers of the program over the years has been The English Center. Located in the middle of a heavily populated section of Miami that daily welcomes newly arrived Cubans and Latin Americans, The English Center serves as a front line institution helping adult education students, including refugees and asylees, successfully resettle in the US.

In the past four years alone, The English Center has enrolled over 1,200 SAVES students. One student who started there is Ms. Magda Erira. Today, she works for the SAVES Program at The English Center and is also enrolled at Florida International University, where she is working on her Master's in Social Work.

Along with ESOL, Adult Basic Education courses

and high school completion classes, the center offers various vocational programs in business technology, family consumer sciences and cosmetology. What really makes this adult education center special is the effort by its employees to offer the most innovative services to their students. The English Center offers classes Monday through Sunday, as well as on-line courses, to accommodate the needs of those students who have hectic work schedules. A representative from the Social Security Office visits The English Center once a month to provide services to their students. Free Income Tax Preparation is offered to allow the Accounting Operations students the opportunity to practice what they study. For the past two years, the staff has planned and held a school wide celebration for World Refugee Day. A health fair and the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month are yearly functions that the school takes great pride in preparing and presenting. As stated in their website, The English Center is a full service adult education center that will continuously strive to provide access to challenging literacy, vocational, and community education while building learning communities designed to maximize student success.



The English Center staff is dedicated to the welfare of new US arrivals.

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For more success stories, go to <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

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