

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Secondary School Reform

**What has been accomplished
over the last two years?**

The Secondary School Reform (SSR)
Plan was approved by the School
Board for implementation on
May 15, 2006.

The primary tenets of the SSR Plan include:

- Implementation of career academies in all senior high schools
- Increase graduation rates in which students are ready for college, university, technical school, or career
- An enhanced senior year experience which includes internships aligned to each students' career path goals
- Increased rigor of all academic subjects including Mathematics, English, Science and Social Studies all four years
- Increased access by all students to advanced placement courses
- Improved articulation between levels to decrease academic achievement transition dips between elementary and middle school, and middle and senior high school.

Cohort 1

There are eleven high schools (identified within the district as *Cohort 1 Schools*) implementing the SSR plan with a voluntary eight-class schedule. Students in these schools will have expanded opportunities to take intensive electives as part of their career academy

- **Miami Southridge Senior High**
- **John A. Ferguson Senior High**
- **North Miami Beach Senior High**
- **Miami Douglass MacArthur Senior (south campus)**
- **Booker T. Washington Senior High**
- **Miami Jackson Senior High**
- **Miami Senior High**
- **Miami Beach Senior High**
- **Ronald Reagan – Doral Senior High**
- **Miami Edison Senior**
- **Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior**

**What results have we
seen so far?**

Baseline data has been established for all secondary schools relating to the targeted goals:

- Improved attendance rates
- Reduced drop-out rates
- Increased percentage of students meeting high levels of performance standards
- Increased participation in honors and Advanced Placement courses
- Increased participation in SAT and ACT testing programs
- Increased numbers of student participating in internship, dual enrollment, and apprenticeship experiences
- Increased numbers of students who pursue post-secondary education.

Additional Components

- All high schools are implementing either a stand alone transition course for ninth graders or are integrating the curriculum through academic areas.
- All middle schools are integrating through academic areas the curriculum developed for the transition course (Middle Moves) for all sixth grade students.
- All high schools have created ninth grade academies.
- All middle schools are implementing teaming at all grade levels.
- Through the professional development instituted during the SLC grants, we have built capacity at the 16 schools to begin the reform work.

What is our focus this year?

2006 - 2007

- *Cohort 1 Schools* of SSR are focusing on creating their career academies for the 2007 – 2008 school year.
- Remaining high schools are involved in a year long planning for career academy deployment.
- *Cohort 1 Schools* of SSR are preparing approximately 500 - 600 seniors who will be involved during the second semester in an internship experience. This is in addition to the 5,000 students who participated in such experiences in 2005 – 2006.
- An SSR Implementation Task Force has been developed in order to align district resources and oversee implementation activities.
- Professional development activities are focused this year on the re-culturing aspect of reform.

Questions - Discussion

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