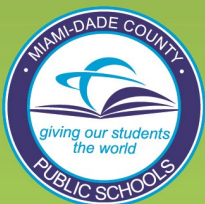


SAVES Program

July 2018— First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SAVES Helps Students Accomplish their Goals



Santos Guilarte came from Cuba in 2015, almost three years ago. Some of the biggest problems he faced were getting used to a new way of living, adjusting to the customs, and learning the English language. He left Cuba in the middle of his 11th grade year; and that was a big obstacle in his educational path. When he arrived in Miami, he was worried about not finding a school near his home to attend. Mr. Guilarte said that he considered himself lucky to have found Miami Springs Adult Education Center that offered the GED Success Management Academy (SMA) program. The SMA program was the way for him to complete high school as quickly as possible, by taking and passing the GED test and reinforcing his English to enroll in college.

Earning a GED and learning English made it possible for him to enroll in college. Once in college, he was able to see how the SMA program and the ESOL classes he took were beneficial to him in many ways. He gave credit to the SAVES program and the SAVES staff that supported his effort by covering his tuition and providing him with textbooks and dictionaries.

Mr. Guilarte said that being part of a pharmacy technician's staff at a local pharmacy and a clerical staff at Miami Springs Adult Education Center made him realize the great opportunities that the SAVES program offered him. Mr. Guilarte is grateful to have been a participant in the SAVES program. He encourages every refugee to take advantage of this extraordinary program, which has been instrumental to his success, and has shown him ways to become a major contributor to his community and to others.