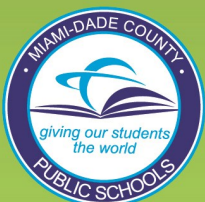


# SAVES Program

June 2021— First Edition



## MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mónica Torres, born in Cuba, was four years old when she started studying the art of dance. After years of practice, she enrolled in the National Ballet School in Havana. Her studies eventually took her to the University of Havana, there she earned her Bachelor and master's degree in Art History and Dance. When she had the opportunity to move to the United States to further her studies, she jumped at the chance.

Upon arriving in the United States in 2016 as a political refugee, Monica was introduced to the SAVES program, which helped her enroll in English classes for adults at Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center. Thanks to Reina Canosa, the SAVES school contact, Monica felt very welcome, the refugee program helped Monica greatly, it paid for her classes, and revalidated and translated her university degrees.

The SAVES program helped her not only in the academic field, but also helped guide her professionally and personally. Ms. Canosa also helped put Monica in contact with other Cuban artists based in Miami to further her career and start working as a Ballet and dance teacher with different companies throughout the city.

Today, Monica works at the testing departments for Miami Dade Couth Public Schools while also working as a Flamenco and Castanets teacher at the Community

Center in Miami Beach, running dancing programs for seniors. Monica is very thankful for the help and care the SAVES program provided and the guidance and support Ms. Canosa and her teachers offered her.

