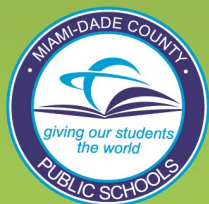


SAVES Program

May 2023—First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Escaping the abyss to find a glimpse of paradise with SAVES

Mr. Gabriel Fernandez was born in Cienfuegos, Cuba. He left his own country a time after the riot that took place in Cuba on July 11, 2021, due to the repression of the Cuban dictatorship. He always dreamed of living in a free country and undertaking a new life far from a dictatorship. After failing many attempts to leave the country he finally got a scholarship to study at Nuevo Leon's University located in Monterrey, State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Once Mr. Fernandez was in Mexico, he used the possibility of being near the southern border of the United States and crossed the border requesting for asylum. He arrived at the United States on March 7th, 2022. He was established in Miami, Florida where he found a very important Cuban Community.

From the beginning, he started working hard in any construction jobs offered for him which made him able to pay rent, and immigration services. He knew that the English language was very important for his success, so investigating in possibilities on how to work in his English he discovered the Skills for Academics, Vocational and English Studies (SAVES) Program. Through the SAVES Program Mr. Fernandez enrolled in ESOL and ABE classes at Miami Sunset Adult Education Center. After he was able to dominate the English language, he decided to study in the medicine field to get a better job since his goal is to obtain a United States registered nurse license, so he registered

to Phlebotomy class which he said it was the first step for him to accomplish his goal.

Mr. Fernandez is very grateful to the SAVES Program for all the benefits he received during the study of the English language and Phlebotomy. He has learned that with the right mindset everything is possible, and the SAVES program has supported him and given him a good opportunity for him to keep growing in professional fields. After one year in the United States Mr. Gabriel Fernandez can agree on what Ms. Maria Ramos says: "this country teaches us to be brave, to persevere and to work hard to achieve and enjoy our dreams."

