

U.S. INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

U.S. International Christian Academy is an independent, international autonomous global high school

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School Improvement Plan (SIP)

2021 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Introductory Statement:

The mission of U.S. International Christian Academy is to provide an educational environment that promotes academic excellence, leadership, critical thinking, analytical skills, and intellectual, spiritual and physical development to a diverse community of young men and women, presently predominantly high risk students. The school strives to educate and prepare students with a solid academic foundation to prepare them for college, entry-level employment, and adulthood.

Our Distance Educational Program is designed and aimed to deliver quality education to students who are not physically "on site" in a traditional brick-and-mortar classroom setting. The Distance Learning program has been described as "a process to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance". Our distance learning program provides the distance learning opportunity for students to achieve their academic goals and an educational experience, of equal quality to traditional face-to-face setting, via distance learning. The Distance Learning modality allows a study curriculum for the learner to fulfill their student needs outside the classroom. U.S. International Christian Academy provides Hybrid Distance Education courses requiring a combination of online material and a physical on-site component twice per week to interact with faculty and advisors. The students learn at their own pace with personalized attention meeting their special needs and learning styles.

We are committed to supporting our students in achieve their academic goals and dreams by providing personalized individual advisement to successfully reach the goal to graduate from high school. Our Academy promotes integrity, ethics, self-discipline, perseverance, and knowledge preparing students to be well-rounded citizens in a multi-ethnic environment and ready to face the 21st Century.

U.S. International Christian Academy is based on the concept that “God is the source of all life, truth, and knowledge. Therefore, true learning begins by knowing God.”

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History of the School

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U.S. International Christian Academy was created out of the need to provide students an opportunity to graduate from high school after failed attempts and not being able to complete high school for reasons such as:

- a) Not being able to pass the FCAT Test
- b) Economic and family needs that caused them to drop out of school, and
- c) Joining the work force and having the need to complete school.

U.S. International Christian Academy was founded by educators and pillars of the community whose primary goals in life are to educate and help their community.

U. S. International Christian Academy was opened in 2001 and has been very successful providing young people opportunities to obtain a high school and pursue a college education.

School Vision Statement

U.S. International Christian Academy's mission is to inspire and equip every student to become a life-long learner and positive contributor to society through high expectations and excellent academics, engaged and individualized instruction and supportive community.

Mission Statement

The mission U.S. International Christian Academy is to provide an educational environment that promotes academic excellence, leadership, critical thinking, analytical skills, and intellectual, spiritual and physical development to a diverse community of young men and women, presently predominantly high risk students.

Educational Philosophy

U.S. International Christian Academy's educational philosophy consists on providing an approved curriculum in a faith-based structure. Our focus, goals, and objectives are to educate and give high school students a solid foundation during the important formative years preparing them for young adulthood, higher education, and life. Our team of committed teachers, professional staff, and administrators closely guide, mentor, educate, and support students, individually meeting their unique and specific needs.

Distance Education

As the school's mission states: "Our distance education program provides the distance learning opportunity for students to achieve their academic goals and educational experience, of equal quality to traditional face-to-face setting, via distance learning".

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The students are able to access all the resources they need for their individual courses. Textbook are provided by the school for each course as well as access codes and passwords. The students also have access to the schools Electronic Library System through the schools website.

The teachers are able to upload video, audio clips, Power Point presentations, films, teleconferencing and other educational resources to enhance their course content.

PowerPoint presentations are used to enhance lectures, virtual labs are used in science courses to illustrate and show detailed information, numerous video and audio clips are used for all courses, as well as illustrative presentations that enable the teacher to communicate more effectively and enhance the teaching objectives being covered in the course. Specific lecture notes are also provided to cover each topic.

PURPOSE DISTANCE EDUCATION

Distance Education and Off-Campus Instructional Sites at U.S. International Christian Academy Purpose is committed to provide quality education to students in all modalities.

Students in enrolled in distance education courses, programs, and/or off-site instruction have access to support services and resources needed to successfully complete their education

Definitions

U.S. International Christian Academy is responsible for the approval of the Distance Education curriculum and has the authority to approve the use and allocation of resources that support these academic functions.

Online course: Credit bearing course where 100% of required course content, activities, and assessments occur online. These courses are conducted via web-based instruction and collaboration.

Organizational Structure:

Academic affairs holds the administrative responsibility for the quality of distance learning programs.

CURRENT SCHOOL STATUS

School Profile / Demographics

U.S. International Christian Academy is located in a mostly commercial community in Hialeah, Little Havana West and in Broward county. The School opened in 2001 with a ninth grade class since then has added level each year culminating with our first graduating class in 2004.

U.S. International Christian Academy is a commuter alternative high school that educates approximately one hundred students a year. The High School is comprised of twelve locations in the Broward, Miami-Dade County areas and one office in the Washington DC. The Main campus is located in Hialeah, while branch campuses are located in the south west area of Miami and Hialeah. Each location is no further than one to seven miles from any other location. The Principal presides over the day-to-day operation of the high school regardless of location.

U.S. International Christian Academy strives to provide the educational facilities and resources that support intensive sessions of study in small classes, in order to foster in the student the attainment of a quality college education according to the students' personal goals, and the advancement of modern technology.

The socioeconomics background of the surrounding community ranges from minority low middle class to poor. Most of our students and their family are recipients of State and Federal aid programs. Twenty percent of our graduates attend higher education institution.

Service Area:

Demographic Data School's service area includes primarily Miami, Hialeah, Sweetwater, South Miami, Kendall and South Dade. Miami Dade County is 90 % percent) and Broward County 10%. Miami Dade and Broward Counties have a high Hispanic population compared with the statewide average.

Miami Dade County is 70 percent Hispanic and Broward County is 28 percent, compared to the statewide average.

The proportion of Hispanic students enrolled has grown steadily, increasing by 1-2 percent each year from fall 2011 to fall 2019

The percentage of households that speak Spanish in Miami Dade County (60 percent) and Broward County (20 percent) is also greater than the statewide average. Based on the projected growth of Miami Dade and Broward Counties, the ethnicity distribution is expected to shift slightly.

The Hispanic population is projected to increase three to four percent in Miami Dade County, respectively, over the next 20 years, while the share of White population is expected to decrease by roughly the same amount. Overall, the population in the U.S. International Christian Academy's service area is projected to grow.

Service Area: Socioeconomic Data

The poverty level in Miami Area is above 13.1% national average, with 25.8% of families below the poverty level in Miami Dade.

Additionally, the median income is less than the state average by almost \$18,000.

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U.S. International Christian Academy evaluated the results of a number of tasks, such as:

- Organizing professional development training
- Coordinating ongoing support
- Providing corrective feedback to implementers
- Training teachers
- Coordinating implementation data collection

Areas of Strength

Our teachers have 20 years or more of teaching experience. Our Academic strengths include; educational experience, bilingual educator, creativity, imagination, critical thinking, organization, time management, and online class control.

Improve Leadership Skills:

1. Clear Vision
2. Concrete Plans
3. Stay Positive
4. Improve Communication Skills
5. Admit Weaknesses
6. Evaluate strength points

Plans for Improvement:

1. Increase the number of students
2. Increase tuition funds
3. Increase hours and teachers salary
4. Increase the number of volunteers and internships
5. Look for donations