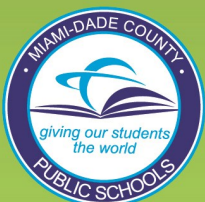


# SAVES Program

July 2021 — First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## The courage to keep moving forward.

Dayana Morgado, born in Camaguey, Cuba, always wanted to be a doctor. She began pursuing her dream by working as a medical assistant when she was presented with the opportunity to work as a doctor in Venezuela. She knew this was her chance to leave Cuba to continue her career path and achieve her dream. Unfortunately, the totalitarian communist regime had taken over Venezuela, and after five years of living there, she knew she had to leave for America.

It was when Dayana arrived in Miami Beach she discovered the SAVES program. She says that SAVES opened the first door. "I found out there was a program that would help my daughter and I integrate into American society," Dayana added. "SAVES representative Zirema met with us and helped us understand how to navigate community resources to access technical courses, learn how to validate foreign professional credentials, and find out about job opportunities. The program has helped me with my situation!"

Fast forward to today, and Dayana now lives in Miami Beach, where she has been here for over three years. Through SAVES, she is currently in an ESOL class at Miami Beach Adult Educational and Community Center. Her classmates say she lights up every lesson with her vivacious zest for life and unbending optimism. And she takes pride in saying that her life is changing for the better.

She laments the negative effect of the isolation that the Covid pandemic has had on her drive to remake her life and restart her career here in the U.S. "Lately, I feel like I am living in a bubble and English is the only thing that can pop it for me!". She says she is determined to master English fluency skills even though it is slow-going. "I need English to reach my goal and I have finally lost my fear of speaking English. Even though my whole world is still Spanish, I am speaking more and more in English," Dayana said. "Thank you SAVES!"