

SABIS® Releases New Report on Closing Achievement Gap



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For Immediate Release

As a global education management organization with a vision to transform the world through education, SABIS® is actively working toward making a difference in the lives of the 60,000+ students enrolled in SABIS® schools in 15 countries on four continents. To this end, SABIS® implements a dynamic educational system, using cutting-edge tools and specialized teaching methods across its worldwide network to ensure students achieve their full potential.

Along with providing high-quality education that meets the demands of a rapidly changing world, SABIS® is engaged in tackling the disparities in academic achievement between different ethnic and socioeconomic groups and **recently released a new publication highlighting its schools' success in narrowing achievement gaps at its schools.**

Entitled ***Closing the Achievement Gap: The SABIS® Story***, the report focuses on two of the organization's large K-12 charter schools in the U.S., ***SABIS® International Charter School (SICS)*** in Springfield, Massachusetts, which began operation in 1995, and the ***International Academy of Flint (IAF)*** in Flint, Michigan, which opened in 1999. With a total combined enrollment of nearly 2,800 students, of which 76% are considered minorities, these schools are dramatically raising the standard of education in the communities they serve by consistently narrowing the achievement gap.

Using the results of 35 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) exams administered to ***SICS*** and ***IAF*** students in grades 3-11 during the 2009-10 academic year, these two SABIS® schools, combined, ***closed the gap between African-American and Caucasian students on 13 of the 35 tests (37%).*** Furthermore, the state exam results indicate that the schools ***significantly narrowed the gap between African-American and Caucasian students at their respective schools, in comparison to their state, on 20 of the 35 tests (57%).*** ***Therefore, on 94% of the tests, these two SABIS® charter schools either closed the gap completely or had narrower gaps than the states in which they operate.***

"By using the proven SABIS® instructional methods, curriculum, and weekly assessment system, these two large public charter schools are going against the grain and demonstrating that all students can achieve high expectations," said SABIS® VP of U.S. Operations, Mr. George Saad. ***"They're dispelling the myth that some students cannot learn and proving that larger class sizes and a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, along with weekly exams to assess learning, are effective in helping students rise to the challenge."***

In addition to narrowing the ethnic achievement gap, the report contains detailed information showing that SICS and IAF were also successful in narrowing the gap between economically-disadvantaged students and their more privileged peers. At SICS, the socioeconomic gap average is 12% in comparison to a gap of 32% in the state. At IAF, the school's economically-disadvantaged students outperform the state's in 12 of 14 exams.

SICS and ***IAF***, like the seven other SABIS® U.S. charter schools, implement the proven SABIS® Educational System. Regular assessment, high expectations for student performance and behavior, and involvement in contributing to the school through Student Life all contribute to the success of these schools at closing the achievement gap and preparing students for a bright future.

For more information about SABIS® and the schools mentioned, or to download ***Closing the Achievement Gap: The SABIS® Story***, please visit <http://www.sabis.net/Downloads/closing-achievement-gap-the-sabis-story.pdf>.

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