Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®
igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition

Strategic Plan: 2007-2012

BELIEFS

We believe that…
- All people have equal intrinsic worth.
- All people have choices and are responsible for their actions.
- Belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good.
- Diverse perspectives enrich understanding and inspire discovery and creativity.
- Honesty, trust and respect are vital for any relationship to thrive.
- Learning never ends.
- Meaning is constructed by the learner.
- No one’s path in life is predetermined.
- The ability to discern and create connections is the essence of understanding.
- We are all stewards of our planet.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of IMSA, the world’s leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.

OBJECTIVES

- All learners achieve their personal aspirations and explore their potential to contribute to the common good.
- Each IMSA graduate will live a life of exemplary service to humanity.
- Educators use teaching and learning strategies grounded in imagination and inquiry.

STRATEGIES

1. We will develop the whole person.

2. We will require students to pursue personalized plans of study, based on integrated learning experiences and assessed on the basis of individual mastery.

3. We will expand the development, delivery, support and evaluation of IMSA’s products and services grounded in imagination and inquiry.

4. We will generate scholarship that demonstrates the effectiveness of our practices and transfers knowledge produced by our work.

5. We will develop innovation and entrepreneurial talent and capacity.

6. We will diversify our funding to provide reliable and flexible financing.
ACTION PLANS – SPECIFIC RESULTS STATEMENTS

Strategy 1 - We will develop the whole person.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.1: Create and sustain a diverse environment that values individual differences and uses these to enrich the community and improve performance, service, and interpersonal relations.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.2: Establish conditions that value each individual’s contribution to the community.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.3: Integrate personal growth into the PLP.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.4: Provide opportunities for the intentional understanding and development of self and self in relationship with others.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.5: Enhance the opportunities and programs to promote the academic, social and emotional success of students.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.6: Encourage and support the individual development of community members to their fullest potential.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.7: Enable staff to pursue their own passion through actions that advance the human condition.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.8: IMSA students engage in service to advance the human condition.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.9: Establish a culture which encourages every member of the IMSA community to act as good stewards of the environment.

SPECIFIC RESULT 1.10: Build a community that fulfills employees’ desires for growth, recognition and innovation, and that nurtures their emotional and professional commitment to advance IMSA as the world’s leading teaching and learning laboratory.

Strategy 2 - We will require students to pursue personalized plans of study, based on integrated learning experiences and assessed on the basis of individual mastery.

SPECIFIC RESULT 2.1: Identify “core” knowledge, skills, and experiences required within each content area.

SPECIFIC RESULT 2.2: Provide students with a common core.

SPECIFIC RESULT 2.3: Ensure that all students demonstrate competency in the requirements of the “core.”

SPECIFIC RESULT 2.4: Evaluate learning standards and outcomes for each discipline in order to identify rigorous, credit-bearing non-traditional learning experiences.

SPECIFIC RESULT 2.5: Create a framework which encourages students to consider activities to advance their growth and development.

SPECIFIC RESULT 2.6: Provide all students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery and obtain credit for any academic course in the IMSA curriculum beyond the core.
**SPECIFIC RESULT 2.7:** Create a framework for the development of student leaders.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 2.8:** Develop an adaptable personalized plan of study for each student.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 2.9:** Prototype a senior experience in which students reflect on their learning time at IMSA.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 2.10:** Prototype a senior capstone experience.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 2.11:** Allow each student the opportunity to spend time deeply exploring a field of study addressing the human condition.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 2.12:** Student performance in core courses will be monitored and supported through collaborative team actions.

**Strategy 3 - We will expand the development, delivery, support and evaluation of IMSA’s products and services grounded in imagination and inquiry.**

**SPECIFIC RESULT 3.1:** Create an internal integrating structure to insure strong presence and influence in Illinois statewide policy-making and advocacy organizations relate to STEM education (e.g., Illinois P-20 Council, ISBE, Illinois American Diploma project).

**SPECIFIC RESULT 3.2:** Focus IMSA consulting services for schools/school districts seeking to enhance inquiry-based integrative pedagogy in mathematics and science or to establish math/science schools.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 3.3:** Document selected existing mathematics and science products, programs and services within the pre-admission program and in three year academic residential program and evaluate their potential for expansion.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 3.4:** Establish professional development (PD) program for mathematics and science teachers, based on IMSA’s Core Competencies, for pre-service, beginning, and experienced teachers.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 3.5:** Design IMSA’s online learning presence.

**Strategy 4 - We will generate scholarship that demonstrates the effectiveness of our practices and transfers knowledge produced by our work.**

**SPECIFIC RESULT 4.1:** IMSA staff will participate in the generation of scholarship.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 4.2:** Develop a systematic approach to document the learning design and the environment of IMSA.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 4.3:** Implement a process for management, assessment, and continuous improvement of the IMSA model.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 4.4:** Develop and implement effective mechanisms to package and share IMSA’s practices & products with others.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 4.5:** Construct a system of support and resources for staff that produce scholarship and produce evidence of the IMSA learning environment.
Strategy 5 - We will develop innovation and entrepreneurial talent and capacity.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 5.1:** Empower faculty and staff to explore, pilot and document innovative and/or entrepreneurial programmatic initiatives and pursuits.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 5.2:** Enable students, faculty and staff to collaboratively design and implement innovative and/or entrepreneurial prototypes for IMSA and beyond.

Strategy 6 - We will diversify our funding to provide reliable and flexible financing.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.1:** Processes for budgeting and allocating scarce financial resources among competing programmatic needs drive systematic goals for all revenue sources.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.2:** Human Resource policies and procedures encourage and support employees engaging in activities that increase income to the IMSA Fund and IMSA.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.3:** Improved, comprehensive fundraising practices increase private contributions to the IMSA Fund and IMSA.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.4:** Corporate sponsorships fund IMSA.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.5:** Faculty, staff and students raise additional funds through grants.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.6:** IMSA’s intellectual capital generates earned income.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.7:** Venture capital investments in IMSA’s alums, students and current faculty and staff generate income.

**SPECIFIC RESULT 6.9:** The Academy receives increased funding from federal sources.