



# SIFE Programming...It Takes a Village

Ramon Cruz - Guidance Counselor Lawrence International High School

Nicoleta Filimon - ELD Teacher Lawrence International High School

Abby Rydbeck - ELD Teacher Lawrence International High School

---

*May 8, 2014 MATSOL Conference*

# Lawrence, MA

## Demographics

- ❖ Incorporated as a city - in 1853
- ❖ Population (2012) - 77, 326
- ❖ Total square miles - 7.4
- ❖ Public/ Private Educational Institutions
- ❖ Median household income: \$25, 983 (U.S. Average \$41, 994)
- ❖ Median family income: \$29, 809 (U.S. Average \$50, 046)
- ❖ 73.9% of the population are hispanic or latino (Dominicans being the highest with 39.6%, followed by Puerto Ricans 22.2%)
- ❖ Home of Robert Frost and The Bread and Roses Strike of 1912.



# Lawrence International High School

Lawrence, MA

---

---



# International High School Then and Now

- ❖ Then: 2007 - Spring 2011
- ❖ Core Regular Academics - ELA, Math, S.S./ U.S. History, Science, (5) Languages, etc. Regular Ed./ Honors/ AP Level Courses. SEI ELA 1-4. Special Education.
- ❖ Now: Fall 2011 - Present
- ❖ Newcomers were transferred to the new high school, SY:2011-2012 INT consisted of Reg. Ed/ SEI/ SLS/ Newcomers/ SIFE.
- ❖ After approval from campus administration to move out all non-ELL's, what resulted and exist today is - Newcomers (Team 1 and 2; SEI 1-4; ELL SLS; SIFE)

## International High School Then and Now (continued)

- ❖ SY: 2011-2012 (SIFE students start to be identified, carry over from off site Newcomers Program)
- ❖ (2011-2012)Systems 44/ Native Language Literacy/ Rosetta Stone; Number of SIFE students: 13
- ❖ (2012-2013)Systems 44/ Native Language Literacy/ Rosetta Stone; Number of SIFE Students: 10
- ❖ (2013-2014)SIFE specific courses (ELL, Math, Science, and History); Number of SIFE: 39

# International High School Then and Now (continued)

- ❖ As a result of our SIFE population, our principal put together a SIFE Team made up of different stakeholders: Administrator(s); Guidance Counselor; Intake Counselor; ELA Content Coach; ESL Content Coach; SIFE Teachers.
- ❖ As a result of our SIFE Team, we have the following:
  - ❖ Identifying SIFE -
    - ❖ 1. Home Language Survey
    - ❖ 2. W-APT Testing
    - ❖ 3. Diagnostic Test
    - ❖ 4. Teacher Observation
    - ❖ 5. Counselor Interview/ Records Review

# SIFE at INT

Schedule - DVD - Transition



# SIFE at INT

---

---

- SIFE Classes (rotating schedule)
  - Introduction to ESL (2 periods per day)
  - Introduction to Consumer Math (one period)
  - Introduction to Science (one period)
  - Introduction to Social Studies (one period)
  - Physical Education/ Art (one period)

# SIFE at INT

---

---

- SIFE DVD
  - provides information on the services offered to SIFE and their families
  - introduces teachers and administration
  - uses SIFE's native language (Spanish) to communicate information

# SIFE at INT

---

---

- Transition
  - hybrid program (SIFE & regular ESL)
  - regular ESL
- Criteria
  - assessment data
  - teacher recommendation

# SIFE Course Descriptions

International High School



# Introduction to ESL

- ❖ Introduction to ESL #050 full year course—  
5.0 credits per semester
- ❖ This course is for beginning level students who have been identified as SLIFE (Students with Interrupted or Limited Education) and who have acquired minimal or no English language skills. Students will receive an introduction to the basics of the English language with emphasis on the development of functional vocabulary and listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students enrolled in this course will receive two periods a day of instruction.

# Introduction to Consumer Math

- ❖ Introduction to Consumer Math #235                      full year course—2.5 credits per semester
- ❖ This course is for beginning level students who have been identified as SLIFE (Students with Interrupted or Limited Education) and who have acquired minimal or no English language skills. This course is designed to build the capacity of students' understanding of basic math concepts and skills and financial literacy. Topics covered will include personal budgets, credit, banking services, understanding bills, consumer discounts, selecting job benefit options, and taxes. This course will also emphasize the development of English language literacy skills and content and academic vocabulary. Native Language support is provided.



# Introduction to Science

- ❖ Introduction to Science #303 full year course—2.5 credits per semester
- ❖ This course is for beginning level students who have been identified as SLIFE (Students with Interrupted or Limited Education) and who have acquired few or no English language skills. Students will study the major systems of the human body and how they interrelate, diseases and prevention, and issues related to mental and emotional health. This course will also emphasize the development of English language and literacy skills and content and academic vocabulary. Native language support is provided.



# SIFE Role-Play

You will now have the opportunity to play the role of a stakeholder in the SIFE enrollment process. (Borrowed from Andrea DeCapua & Helaine Marshall)

## Directions

- Get into groups of five.
- Select an envelope from the packet you received (roles and background information).
- If you received the student/ parent envelope, read the information about your profile. **DO NOT SHARE IT WITH YOUR GROUP!**
- Conduct an intake interview in order to appropriately place the student.



# Debrief

- What did you learn about the student?
- Were you able to determine an appropriate placement?
- What were the obstacles that you encountered while conducting the interview?

**D**

**E**

**E**

**E**

**B**

**R**

**I**

**E**

**F**

# Instructional Considerations

---

---

- Reach students where they are, not where we want them to be
- Accept and value the knowledge and experience that they bring
- Teach them the academic concepts using appropriate scaffolding

“Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students. ”

*—Solomon Ortiz*