



Case Study

Academy for International Education  
Miami-Dade County School District

Education: K – 8

World Language and English  
Language Blended Learning

## Building biliteracy through bilingualism.

### Challenge

The Academy for International Education (AIE), a tuition-free public charter school located in South Florida/Miami-Dade, needed a language-learning program to build bilingualism among all students through focusing on biliteracy in their native language, Spanish, and the target second language, English, for their ELL students. AIE wanted to combine technology with pedagogy to create a “technogogy” that could drive to the goals of the program. Understanding that learners at the academy are digital natives, AIE wanted a technology solution that was a visual, multisensory solution that would keep learners engaged and motivated to meet program goals.

### Implementation

Through independent study in designated computer labs, students were assigned the Rosetta Stone® solution an average of 4-5 days per week, 20-30 minutes per session. Focusing on strengthening all skills of the learner’s native language, the academy was able to leverage this skill development to enhance outcomes in the English language classroom. English was taught by direct, classroom instruction. Students were able to apply skills and structures developed in their native language to their study of English. Teachers in the classroom would make direct connection between Spanish language and language structure taught in the Rosetta Stone solution to the lesson plans in their English classrooms.

### Benefits

AIE realized the following benefits from implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution:

- Increased achievement to Common Core standards
- Improved bilingualism and biliteracy skills of students
- Promoted 21st century skills for participation in global community
- Supported brain development and growth in achievement in other academic subjects
- Complemented traditional instruction to address unique needs of digital natives



*“The Rosetta Stone curriculum provides flexibility in delivering language skills through consistent instruction as well as a consistent pedagogy that facilitates language learning. It also allows teacher involvement to reinforce the Rosetta Stone curriculum.”*

— Vera Hirsh, Principal  
Academy for International Education  
Miami-Dade County School District



## Leveraging Technology

AIE saw the opportunity to combine technology with pedagogy to create a "technogogy" that could drive to the goals of the program. The academy focused on designing a language-learning program utilizing technology to strength Spanish native language literacy of participants. Understanding that learners at the academy are digital natives, AIE wanted a technology solution that was a visual, multisensory solution that would keep learners engaged and motivated to meet program goals. The academy also recognized the importance of proficiency in two or more languages for brain development and growth in achievement in other academic subjects. In developing the program, AIE looked for a language-learning solution to partner with traditional instruction that would address the unique needs of digital natives. Leveraging the Rosetta Stone® solution for Spanish language skill development and the powerful English language instruction delivered by classroom teachers, AIE saw gains in student performance from the implementation as well as realized enhanced instructional time for teachers.

*"Students in classes that use computer-aided instruction outperformed their peers on standardized tests of basic skills achievement by 30 percent on average".*

— US Department of Education  
*Getting America's Students Ready for the 21st Century*

## Implementing for Success

Through independent study in designated computer labs, students were assigned the Rosetta Stone solution an average of 4-5 days per week, 20-30 minutes per session. Focusing on strengthening all skills of the learners' native language, the academy was able to leverage this skill development to enhance outcomes in the English language classroom. English instruction was provided by direct, classroom instruction. Students were able to apply skills and structures reinforced and developed in their native language to their study of English. Teachers in the classroom would make direct connection between Spanish language and language structure taught in the Rosetta Stone solution to the lesson plans in their English classrooms. The academy found that the implementation model created a language bridge between Spanish and English, increasing student achievement and increasing biliteracy as well as bilingualism among participants.

## Realizing Benefits

AIE has recognized many benefits from the model implemented. First, English language proficiency has increased for participants as exemplified by performance according to Common Core standards. Through skill development in two languages, the academy has seen a significant increase in the biliteracy of learners. They found that learners increased their confidence to speak and the ability to activate language learned in real-life contexts. Through implementing technology-enriched instruction, AIE Charter School realized a high return on language learning by leveraging technology in lieu of a textbook to drive real results in student achievement. Through building biliteracy through bilingualism, the academy is preparing learners with 21st century skills for success in a global community.

## About the Academy for International Education (AIE)

Academy for International Education (AIE) is a tuition-free public charter school, South Florida's first hybrid charter school model. This school opened in August, 2011, and builds on the strengths of both magnets and charters.

Utilizing leased space from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, AIE offers a curriculum in which students are immersed in language acquisition, where the expectation is that they will graduate having learned two or more foreign languages. Using a blended instructional approach, students have access to a wealth of educational resources via computers and software.

[www.aiecharterschool.org](http://www.aiecharterschool.org)

## About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-based language learning. We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from individual learners to single classrooms to entire organizations.

Our solutions have been implemented in over 20,000 schools and in more than 17,000 private and public sector organizations, and they are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.

