

Achieve3000®

The Immokalee Foundation: Transforming Lives



the **immokalee**
foundation



For thirty years, The Immokalee Foundation has been serving the children of Immokalee, Florida—one of the nation's largest migrant communities. The Foundation's after-school program is designed to empower students and change lives. With a focus on education and development of life skills, it offers students the resources and support they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

The Foundation's ultimate goal is to prepare students for lifelong success. Students come from situations where English may not be their first language, where just getting through high school is considered an achievement, and where a college degree and career are mere dreams. They're in the business of helping make those dreams come true. With the support of mentors, donors, and volunteers, that's exactly what they're doing.

Career Pathways: A Pathway to Success

One of The Immokalee Foundation's initiatives to prepare students for the future is Career Pathways. This program is designed to expose students to different career opportunities. Middle school students participate in career exploration, where they are able to explore topics such as Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Construction Management, and Healthcare. High school students progress to career immersion, choosing a career path, earning professional certifications, and interning to gain experience. Throughout the program, students have access to a volunteer adult mentor and/or a staff advocate to guide their progress.

Stories from The Immokalee Foundation A Graduate's Perspective

Marissa Ocanas is the Immokalee Readers Program Manager for The Immokalee Foundation. She is also an alumna of the program. Ms. Ocanas joined the Foundation in the seventh grade after a rigorous application process and with the support of her mother who wanted to help her daughter realize her dream of going to college.

"The Immokalee Foundation was my support system. The Immokalee Foundation set a foundation that I could stand on to pursue my career choice in college. They were there to help with resources like college tours, prep classes, career panels, and advocacy. My student advocate at the time was Noemi Perez, our current CEO. She was my biggest motivator. She encouraged me and pushed me to be a better student."

She notes that her experience in the program during middle and high school and the advice and support she received from her student advocate was a huge factor in her success. In fact, she says, "I am really thankful that The Immokalee Foundation was there, because, honestly, if it wasn't for them, I don't think I would have graduated with my bachelor's degree in business."

Achieve3000 Literacy

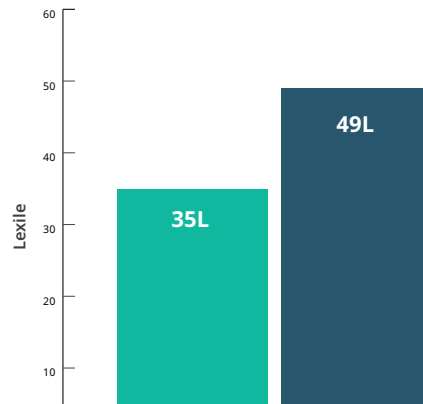
As part of their career preparation, students use Achieve3000 Literacy to boost their literacy skills. As mentioned earlier, many of the children come from homes where English is not the first language spoken. This makes it very difficult for them to perform well on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), Florida's statewide tests for ELA and math, which are administered in English and influence the path that students take in their schooling. Achieve3000 Literacy has proven to be effective in helping Immokalee Foundation participants in grades 6-10 build their literacy skills and boost their FSA scores.

The Impact of Achieve3000 Literacy

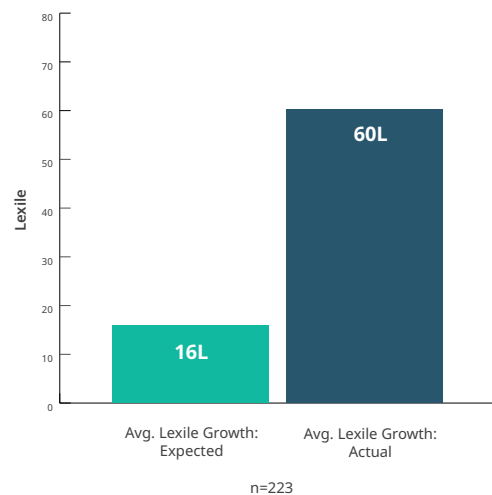
As part of her role at The Immokalee Foundation, Ms. Ocanas oversees the Achieve3000 Literacy implementation. She is responsible for reviewing students' data and making sure they are staying on track and pushing forward. In the two years that the students have been using Achieve3000 Literacy, she says they have seen tremendous growth. In 2019-20, Immokalee saw Lexile growth of 49L in spite of the pandemic. This year, they have already seen growth of 60L as of 1/31/21.

Students do their Achieve3000 Literacy lessons after school in addition to their regular schoolwork. At home, students often are responsible for looking after younger siblings, and most parents speak only Spanish. The language scaffolds built into the articles give students the extra help they need to comprehend what they are learning. Their mentors encourage them to use the vocabulary tool to help with pronunciation and definitions.

Expected and Actual Lexile Growth: Overall
2019 - 2020



Expected and Actual Lexile Growth: Overall
2020 - 2021 YTD





A Student's Perspective

Eighth grade student, Kelly Garcia is a regular participant in The Immokalee Foundation program, attending virtually Mondays through Wednesdays after school. She has been a student with the Foundation for a year and a half. Garcia shared her appreciation for the opportunities given to her and her fellow students to succeed. She mentioned that her mentor checks in with her regularly to check on her grades and see if there are any areas where she needs support.

As part of her after-school work, Garcia uses Achieve3000 Literacy for one hour a week. She's noticed that her reading comprehension in English language arts has improved in school since starting with Achieve3000 Literacy and credits the program for her success, saying, "I love Achieve3000! It's pushing me to increase my literacy and comprehension. I think it's actually more challenging than my normal middle school classes."

Garcia talked about the articles in Achieve3000 Literacy, how interesting they are, and how much she enjoys learning new things. She said one of the things she likes best about the program is that it gives Immokalee students an opportunity to learn, especially those from low-income families. She concluded by saying, "I feel Achieve3000 should be a program that is available to all students worldwide. This will push students in achieving their dreams."

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Kelly Garcia
Student

The Immokalee Foundation

Building Successful Futures

The Immokalee Foundation and Achieve3000 share a common mission: to unlock potential and accelerate learning for every student. Over the past three decades, the Foundation has powerfully impacted the lives of students in the Immokalee community. That impact is clearly reflected in the numbers below:

- ✓ **100%** of the students graduate high school
- ✓ **100%** enroll in post-secondary education at universities, colleges or technical programs
- ✓ **87%** achieve reading growth and 64% are reading at grade level
- ✓ **92%** of graduates complete their professional certification programs or college education

Through the Career Pathways program, the use of Achieve3000 Literacy to accelerate reading growth, and other opportunities such as career panel presentations and field trips, the students of The Immokalee Foundation continue to grow as they move toward a successful future. Currently there are 253 Immokalee students attending college on scholarship. They are living proof that dreams do come true.

About Achieve3000

Achieve3000 delivers a comprehensive suite of digital solutions that significantly accelerate and deepen learning in literacy, math, science, social studies, and ELA. Using personalized and differentiated solutions, Achieve3000 enables educators to help all students achieve accelerated growth. For more than five million students in grades PreK-12, Achieve3000 improves high-stakes test performance and drives college and career readiness.



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Marissa Ocanas

*Immokalee Readers Program Manager
The Immokalee Foundation*