The internationally recognized Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy® (IMSA) develops creative, ethical leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As a teaching and learning laboratory created by the State of Illinois, IMSA enrolls academically talented Illinois students (grades 10-12) in its advanced, residential college preparatory program, and it serves thousands of educators and students in Illinois and beyond through innovative instructional programs that foster imagination and inquiry. IMSA also advances education through research, groundbreaking ventures and strategic partnerships.

As a resource for the people of Illinois, the Academy serves thousands of teachers and students throughout Illinois and across the country. IMSA’s award-winning statewide programs include teacher professional development in research-based and practice-proven instruction in mathematics, science and technology. The Academy’s statewide programs ensure that young students, particularly the underserved, have opportunities to excel in mathematics and science.

The Academy also works with educational, business, government and entrepreneurial partners to develop, test and share innovative ways to enhance teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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History and Governance

IMSA was established in 1978 by the Illinois General Assembly as part of the State’s comprehensive educational reform package to address the critical need for citizens highly skilled in STEM fields. The Academy opened in 1986. IMSA is governed by an appointed Board of Trustees and is funded by the Illinois legislature under the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s authority.

Funding

IMSA’s operating budget is funded largely by the State of Illinois, which supports on-campus and some statewide programs and services. Co-curricular activities for resident students and most of IMSA’s non-resident programs are supported by few income from program participants. IMSA also secures supplemental local, state and federal government grants for programs and special donations and grants through the Illinois Fund for Advancement of Education (IMSA Fund). Examples of recent major donors to the IMSA Fund include ComEd, An Exelon Company, Michael W. Ferro, Education (IMSA Fund). Examples of recent major donors to the IMSA Fund include ComEd, An Exelon Company, Michael W. Ferro, Education (IMSA Fund). Examples of recent major donors to the IMSA Fund include ComEd, An Exelon Company, Michael W. Ferro, Education (IMSA Fund). Examples of recent major donors to the IMSA Fund include ComEd, An Exelon Company, Michael W. Ferro, Education (IMSA Fund).

Residential College Preparatory Program

Named among the top public college preparatory programs in the nation by the Newsweek magazine and The Daily Beast/Journal of College hearings placing the academy on par with private universities, IMSA is known for its rigorous and challenging academic program. IMSA is the only high school that offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. IMSA also offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The International Baccalaureate program is a comprehensive, rigorous, and challenging pre-college program that prepares students for success in higher education. IMSA has over 135 AP courses and 15 IB programs. The AP exams are a measure of student achievement and are used by colleges and universities to determine placement and course credit. IMSA students also have access to a variety of extracurricular activities, including sports, clubs, and student organizations.

Research, Evaluation, Innovation, and Strategic Institutional Partnerships

IMSA is dedicated to providing a world-class educational experience for its students. This is achieved through the application of cutting-edge educational research and the implementation of innovative practices. IMSA is committed to fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement. IMSA provides a rich and challenging curricular and co-curricular program that prepares students for success in higher education.

Program Offerings

Programs Serving Educators and Students Throughout Illinois and Beyond

In the past decade, IMSA's statewide programs have served more than 55,000 students and 130,000 teachers.

IMSA Excellence 200+ (E2K+)

The IMSA Excellence 200+ (E2K+) program serves teachers through professional development workshops and materials in mathematics, science, social studies, and humanities. The program is designed to help educators integrate real-world applications into their classroom instruction. The program provides professional development opportunities for educators and focuses on providing teachers with the tools and resources they need to successfully implement the program in their classrooms.

IMSA’s Reach Project School Visit, Summer Enrichment for Late Elementary (E2K+ for Grades 4-5), and PROMISE which includes two programs: a summer PBL experience for students in grades 2-5, and 2000+ (E2K+) which offers several academic enrichment programs for students from all regions of Illinois. In addition, we accomplish this goal, we actively recruit prospective teachers at their schools who receive professional development from IMSA staff. Teachers who participate in the program are given the opportunity to work with IMSA staff on developing effective lesson plans and teaching strategies for their classrooms.

IMSA’s field offices are historically underrepresented and underserved in mathematics, science, and technology. IMSA staff members serve on several project advisory panels.

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