

Shirley Gil

Shirley Gil is currently the Headmaster of STEPSS Academy, Inc.(SAI) located in South Florida.

Ms. Gil has been involved in education for twenty six years. Ms. Gil was a co-founder and she was instrumental in opening STEPSS Academy. Ms. Gil is also a shareholder. Prior to opening SAI, Ms. Gil was asked to take responsibility as headmaster of a non-profit school located in the same market as SAI. This school had many issues and together with Mr. Samarel they were able to turn the situation around. Because of her effort, today that school is thriving.

Ms. Gil has also served on the Board of Directors of several private for profit schools in the same market. Each private school that Ms. Gil was involved with is still in business teaching the children of our community. Her input in building a strong foundation was the key to their long term success. She brought that same philosophy to SAI. Her vast knowledge and prior successes gave her the ability to open SAI using her experiences to build an even stronger program.

Ms. Gil's journey to begin SAI began many years prior to opening the program in 2011. Along with Mr. Samarel, they visited many schools that catered to the developmentally disabled community. Together they were able to see firsthand faults in each of the schools they visited. Ms. Gil saw a real need to develop programs for the developmentally disabled community that included education as well as life skills.

Ms. Gil also had a personal experience with her son that was diagnosed with SLD and her cousins were diagnosed with Autism. Ms. Gil developed a passion to help the kids with this diagnosis and believes that they can become productive citizens of the community. The SAI program was born because of the need for such a strong program as well as the faults Ms. Gil saw while visiting schools that were offering such services.

Ms. Gil has a full working knowledge of all aspects of operating a school. This includes but is not limited to policies and procedures, a working knowledge of the McKay, Step Up for Students and PLSA Scholarships Program, licensure requirements and the accreditation process.