



MAIA

FAQ

What is MAIA?

We are an organization led by Indigenous women for Indigenous girls.

Why MAIA? Where does the name come from?

Our name comes from Maia: one of the brightest stars in the sky, a symbol of knowledge and wisdom, and holds meaning in all three languages we work in (Kaqchikel, Spanish, and English).

What is the main program?

Our main program is the MAIA Impact School. All Girl Pioneers receive a scholarship to attend the MAIA Impact School and participate in the 7-year program. From 7th to 11th grade and two complementary years, one when they enter the program (called Project Impulso and one when they finish high school called Launch Year Program).

The MAIA Impact School is not a boarding school. Girl Pioneers attend classes weekly (from Monday to Friday) and travel daily from home to school. We prioritize accepting girls who live in Sololá.

What population does our program serve? (age, gender, geography, challenge):

At MAIA, we connect the talents of girls born into situations of quadruple discrimination (female, Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel, economically poor, and from



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rural communities) with the opportunities of the 21st century. We call our students Girl Pioneers because many are the first in their families to continue their education and begin to break cycles of generational poverty. MAIA Girl Pioneers come from 40+ rural highland villages in the province of Sololá, Guatemala, a state that is 98% Maya and has the second-highest poverty level in Guatemala.

How many direct people are served?

We serve nearly 2,000 people, including 250 Girl Pioneers and their families. Every generation or grade has 50 students.

What are the key indicators that guide our program?

- a. Annual retention rates measure MAIA's family engagement program tasked with keeping parents informed and motivated. 97% of Girl Pioneers finish the program.
- b. Academic performance among Girl Pioneers. The Impact School demands almost 200% more time/rigor than public schools.
- c. Life post-graduation is measured by the four institutional goals, specifically by the number of university scholarships, internships, and formal employment offers to Girl Pioneers.