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## Highlights of the Issue

### SABIS® Teacher Training College Planned in Erbil

In a move aimed at raising the standard of education in Kurdistan, the Kurdish government recently issued a license to SABIS® to open and operate a teacher training college. The SABIS® Teacher Training College (STTC) will open its doors in Erbil, Kurdistan in September 2009 and will seek to generate a supply of competent teachers in computing, English, mathematics, and the sciences. The STTC will offer prospective teachers the chance to pursue a rewarding career in education and be qualified to teach in a variety of schools, both public and private.

"Students who enroll in the SABIS® Teacher Training College will benefit from SABIS®'s impressive track record in developing teaching methods that create a lifelong interest in learning," stressed Mr. Carl Bistany, SABIS® President.

The STTC Bachelor of Education program will prepare individuals to become successful teachers in the discipline of their choice and will include a combination of lecture and on-the-job training. The program will cover English language, specialty subject content, instructional methodology, educational philosophy and theory, classroom observation, and practice.



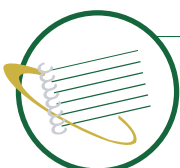
The opening of the college was officially approved by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan region. According to the decree issued by the Ministry, the college will offer a four-year Bachelor of Education degree in English language, mathematics, science, and computing. "This is a milestone for Kurdistan as it would allow individuals with a passion for teaching to refine their skills and contribute to raising the educational standards in Erbil," stated the Ministry's representative.

When the STTC opens in September, it will be located in temporary facilities provided by the Kurdish government. Operation will continue in the temporary location until construction of a government-funded, purpose-built, state-of-the-art campus is completed on a plot of land generously allocated for the project.

Upon completion of STTC's four-year program, graduates of the SABIS® Teacher Training College will be equipped with the tools to become effective teachers who can make a difference and shape the future of coming generations.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

Now available online



For more information on employment or alumni news within the SABIS® School Network, access our websites: <http://www.sabis.net>, <http://www.sabiscareers.com>, <http://www.iscalumni.com>



Against the backdrop of Vienna's enchanting landscape, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting took place from July 6 to 11 under the theme: "Solid Foundations for Continued Success." Directors from fifty schools, along with SABIS® administrators and management team, gathered in Vienna to get an update on the year-long achievements on the academic and corporate fronts and to look to the year ahead.



12<sup>th</sup> Annual Directors' Meeting

Mrs. Leila Saad, SABIS® Chairperson, welcomed the participants and delivered the opening speech which emphasized the need for a solid foundation to ensure continued growth and achieve success. Mrs. Saad pointed out that "growth strengthens an organization and makes it more vigorous. It broadens its vision and increases its ability to achieve." In a keynote speech directly following Mrs. Saad, Mr. Carl Bistany, SABIS® President, reinforced her message and stressed the importance of sustaining SABIS®'s existing success through ongoing expansion and the need to build a right school climate. "What defines success for our founders and hence for each and everyone at SABIS® is: 'wanting to make a difference in children's lives around the globe.' To achieve this, we need to create the right culture that completely embraces this mission," stated Mr. Bistany.

Some of the topics discussed during the meeting included such key issues as the Unlimited Potential of Student Life, SABIS® Books and Systems, Recruitment Challenges, Accelerated English and Math programs, and IT Solutions for Increased Efficiency and Academic Achievement, among others. Attendees were divided into two groups for the panel sessions on Creating and Sustaining the Right School Climate, Efficient Tools and Methods to Ensure all Students are Learning, and Marketing Strategies for Continued Success. The highlight of the meeting was the training workshop on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

On the sideline of the meeting, attendees enjoyed a number of sightseeing tours of Vienna as well as time to network with each other and share challenges and success stories.

## First School "Powered by SABIS®" Opens in New York



The licensing agreement between SABIS® and Ascend Learning, a non-profit charter school management organization in the United States, materialized in the deployment of SABIS® products and services in the organization's first charter school. Located in Ocean Hill-Brownsville community of Brooklyn, New York, the Brooklyn Ascend Charter School opened in September 2008 and serves as the template for the organization's future schools. It is housed in a newly constructed, "green," six-floor building designed by Andersen-Miller Design.

The first school in the US to be "Powered by SABIS®", the Brooklyn Ascend Charter School will draw on all aspects of the SABIS® Educational System, including books, curriculum, methodologies, exams, and technological tools. Ascend will combine the SABIS® system with exceptional school leaders and skilled devoted teachers in order to provide a high-quality, college-preparatory education in a safe and structured environment.

Brooklyn Ascend Charter School's mission is to equip students from underserved communities with the knowledge, confidence, and character to succeed in college and beyond. It will establish a strong foundation of learning habits, critical thinking skills, knowledge, and confidence from the early grades.

In its first year, 2008-2009, the school will serve 213 in grades K-2 and will add one grade each year until becoming a full K-12 school with a target enrollment of 1,180 students. In April, the school held a lottery to randomly select the school's initial 189 students from 1,099 applicants. More than 900 students were placed on a waiting list.

Additional Ascend Learning schools will open in New York and other major northeastern cities in the coming years.

For more information on Ascend Learning and SABIS®, visit [www.ascendlearning.org](http://www.ascendlearning.org) or [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).



Brooklyn Ascend Charter School Classroom



International School of Choueifat students' impressive scoring on external examinations hit a high note in the 2007-08 academic year. Eight students hailing from three ISC schools in the UAE – Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al-Ain – earned top scores on Edexcel examinations among international students worldwide. Edexcel, a Pearson company, is the UK's largest awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers, and other places of learning in the UK and worldwide. General qualifications include GCSEs, AS and A Levels, IGCSEs, and O Levels.

The examination results, issued in August 2008, show that ISC students were among the highest scoring candidates in Edexcel's June 2008 session, most notably in Arabic, economics, French, and math. Based on their performance, these students were ranked in the "Top Ten in the World," thereby joining a long list of ISC students who have distinguished themselves on international examinations over the years. Last year in particular, two ISC students sat for the British International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) examinations in physics and math and received the distinction of being the "best in the world".

Edexcel's International Director, Ross Hall, applauded the candidates' excellent performance. "This is a tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work students put into preparing for their examinations."

In the SABIS® Educational System, students are well-gearred to take and perform well on a number of external examinations. This, along with a well-rounded school experience including involvement in the SABIS Student Life Organization®, has paved the way for their admission to the most competitive programs at the world's top universities.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

### Testimonials

“Many educators have touched the life of my child. I feel that Holyoke Community Charter School has impacted my child like no one else has. The SABIS® approach has helped my child to acquire organizational skills, has helped her to read, and overall has made her feel that she is a valuable part of the school.”

**Sonia Gonzales**

## SABIS® North America / Europe Region Posts Strong AP Results for AY 07-08



Every year, SABIS® students around the network take the Advanced Placement Exams of the US College Board to get a head start on their chosen fields of study in college. Every year, too, SABIS® students' AP results are improving at an impressive rate and highlighting students' thorough preparation and determination to succeed in school and beyond.

Recognized by universities in the US and in more than 60 countries outside the US, AP is offered across 26 subject areas, including mathematics, physics, biology, and literature, among others. Through AP Exams, students have the opportunity to gain the edge in college preparation, stand out in the college admissions process, and broaden their intellectual horizons.

2008 AP results for the North America and Europe region of the SABIS® School Network include scores from the International Academy of Flint (IAF), SABIS® International Charter School (SICS), the International School of Minnesota (ISM), and the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main (ISF). Each of the four schools in the region showed improvement in AP results. At IAF, nearly 78% of the students who took the AP were qualified to receive college credit or advanced placement. ISM students topped their highest passing rate record on the AP set back in 2003/04. In fact, ISM students' scores on AP US Government, AP English Literature, and AP French Literature dramatically improved. SICS scores were also remarkable, particularly in AP US Government, AP US History, and Calculus BC, which all achieved a passing rate of 100%! ISF, which has been singled out in the previous two years for having the best AP German Language results in the world for a school of its size, continued to record outstanding results in the subject with 100% of the students who took the German Language AP earning 5s.



2008 ISF Graduates

Commenting on the results, Mr. George Saad, SABIS® Vice President of US Academic Operations, stated: "Overall, this is excellent performance that you should all be very proud of! These results show that we continue to raise the bar and expect an even greater show of improvement for the current academic year."

One of the distinguishing features of the SABIS® Educational System is that it draws on a comprehensive curriculum that prepares students for a variety of national external exams, including American and British. Regardless of the grade level at which exams are taken, the SABIS® curricula and educational

approach provide a solid foundation that enables students to perform successfully and gain admission to the world's top universities.

For more information about the [North America & Europe Region of the SABIS® School Network](http://www.sabis.net), visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## Information Technology Enhances Education in SABIS® Schools

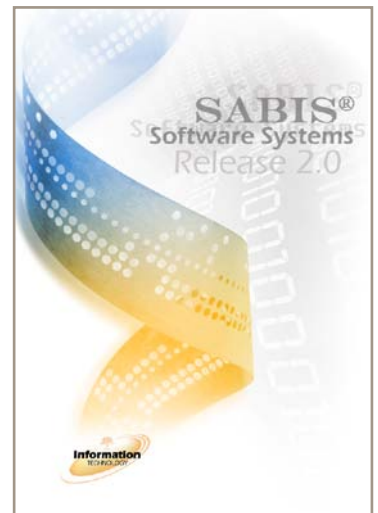


Information Technology plays a paramount role in SABIS® schools and complements the powerful SABIS® Educational System. In keeping SABIS® on the cutting edge of IT, each year SABIS® introduces new educational technology tools to increase the efficiency of the school environment. In this respect, April 2008 and October 2008 witnessed the launch of a new set of software solutions. The new SABIS® Software release, entitled Release 2.0, included 500 new enhancements on the SABIS® School Management System (SSMS) and the SEMS (exam management system). It also brought forth 8 new modules, namely External Exams, SLO™, Alerts, Library System, Prospects, Automatic Diagnostic Testing, Failed Concepts, and Executive Reports.

The SSMS Release 2.0 will add value to SABIS® students throughout the academic year. Through a new diagnostic testing tool, students' academic gaps will be identified before they have even entered a SABIS® classroom, thereby enhancing the system's ability to track student performance from the start. With the help of the Failed Concepts module, students will also be given the opportunity to retake tailored tests covering concepts they have failed to grasp and thus gain a solid mastery of the curriculum.

With the new IT releases, SABIS® school administrators will be able to monitor an expanded range of student data. They will be able to keep track of prospective students, easily enroll students in external exams and SLO™ activities, and analyze individual student reading records based on the library system data.

Through an innovative approach to Information Technology, SABIS® can ensure that its performance-driven system is best positioned to help all students achieve their full potential.



SABIS® Software Systems

For more information about the [SABIS® School Management System](http://www.sabis.net), visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## Testimonials

“ I would like to thank you and the school team at ISC-Cairo for making my son's school life exciting and educational. He actually loves to go to school. ”

**Ehab Hassan Allam**



Since it started its first school in 1886, SABIS® has run under a set of core values in order to achieve high standards of operation. These core values are embedded in the organization as a whole as well as within each of the schools and have been passed on for generations to SABIS® students and employees around the world.

Among core values such as practicing honesty and integrity or continually seeking improvement and never becoming complacent is the SABIS® Core value of "making a difference". Regardless of whether at the corporate level, in private or public schools, or in any of the 15 different countries in which SABIS® operates, the desire to make a difference is a powerful force. It drives schools to achieve more academically; it motivates students to contribute more socially; and it inspires employees to give more professionally.

On the academic level, SABIS® strives to make a difference in students' education in a myriad of ways. These include the educational approach, curriculum, teaching methods, testing system, and the SABIS Student Life Organization®, all of which prepare students with a solid educational foundation that will help them achieve success in college and beyond. *"After actually experiencing the school and the SABIS® system for 13 years, having moved on to university life, from which I am soon to graduate, I can confidently say that I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the things that I've taken from and learned at SABIS®,"* writes one SABIS® graduate.

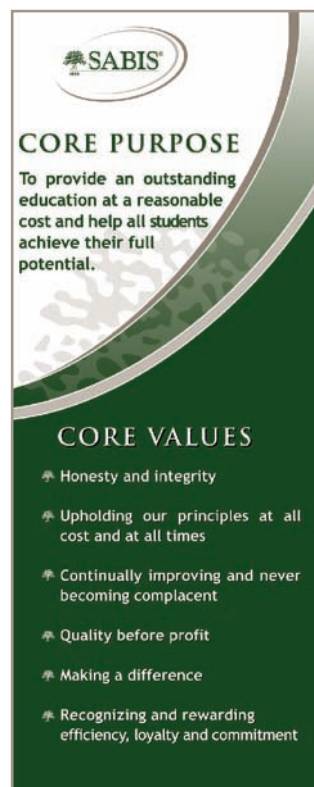
On the social level, the SABIS® Educational System also motivates students to develop skills that they can use to make a difference. Through involvement in the SABIS Student Life Organization®, students acquire 'life' skills, learn to promote high social, ethical, and moral values, and become active contributors to their school and external communities. Another former SABIS® student commented on his SLO™ experience by saying: *"Through working in the SLO™, other students and myself were given the benefit (and trust) of carrying responsibilities, taking charge of things and learning how to work together with one's peers to get things done and achieve the goals set. These were usually meant to better the school experience for our fellow students, providing them with a huge variety of activities to participate in. Although our attempts weren't always successful, lots of management and valuable leadership skills were picked up along the way, helping me carry on to become an active member of my university's community as well. For me, it was through such teamwork and responsibilities, such rich experiences shared with both students and staff, that I grew and felt the value of hard work, maturity and earning one's respect."*

On the administrative level, SABIS® core values are embraced by SABIS® employees around the world who are inspired to continue making a difference. Teachers and staff in SABIS® schools are committed to providing quality education that makes a difference and actively seek to establish a culture of improvement in a stimulating atmosphere. According to one SABIS® employee, *"I have worked for SABIS® for many years. I share the passion, commitment, and perseverance of the company and its dedication to the SABIS® mission and core values. I enjoy knowing that what I do every day contributes positively to students' lives, the lives of my co-workers, and even to the lives of those in the greater community."*

The world of SABIS® benefits from a strong commitment to core values that are actively lived and passed on from one generation to the next. Drive and determination to achieve more through education empowers the SABIS® community to make a difference in their own lives, their communities, and beyond.

*\*All quotes in this article were taken from [www.sabisspeaks.wordpress.com](http://www.sabisspeaks.wordpress.com), a new Internet forum for the SABIS® community.*

For more information on SABIS®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).





SLO™ Summer Training Camp

*Life-changing experience... Amazing... Intellectually challenging... Workshop for the mind, body and soul... Lifelong friendships... Leadership skills... Made a huge difference in my life...*

These are some of the phrases students voiced to relay their impressions of the first worldwide Student Life Training Camp held at the International School of Choueifat in Cairo, Egypt from July 26 to August 3, 2008.

The Student Life Training Camp, which has grown to be a much anticipated event by SABIS® students, became a global affair for the first time this year and brought together 92 students and Student Life Coordinators from 24 schools on 4 different continents.

In addition to the Student Life sessions that typically exemplify this camp, this year's Training Camp agenda was enriched by a multitude of morning sessions delivered by knowledgeable Student Life Coordinators. Topics covered included the popular *Power of Positive Thinking* session, the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, *Leadership is Everyone's Business*, the Fish! Philosophy®, Overcoming your Fears, Event Planning, and the Filter and Emotional Intelligence.

Along with the camp's morning sessions, students explored the incredible sites that Egypt has to offer in the afternoons. They visited the Pyramids, one of the seven wonders of the world, both on foot and on horseback, the Cairo Museum, the Citadel built by Salah Al-Din (Saladin), Mohammed Ali Mosque, the popular Khan El Khalili market, and the largest library of the world in Alexandria. They also experienced the solar system in the planetarium, rode a train from Alexandria to Cairo, and, of course, learned Arabic words that worked like magic in the souks.

While Egypt was certainly impressive and the sessions challenging, it was the energy unleashed by bringing together so many outstanding students, along with the Student Life Coordinators, from around the world that truly stamped this camp as one for the history books. One student rightfully summed it up, "This is the camp that is going to be remembered as the one that changed Student Life. I have not seen this kind of dynamics and passion in a long time."

For more information on the SABIS Student Life Organizational®, visit [www.sabis.net](http://www.sabis.net).

## Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans



In the fall of 2002, Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans opened its doors for students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 in the beautiful Garden District of New Orleans, Louisiana. A member of the worldwide SABIS® School Network, MSANO is a highly academic, non-selective, co-educational public charter school that strives to prepare students for college and a life of continuous learning. MSANO shares its mission with that of all other SABIS® schools in aiming to develop young men and women equipped with the ability and morality to face the challenges of the future and to ensure a better life for themselves, their communities, and the world.



MSANO School Library

Over the years, MSANO's student enrollment has fluctuated in relation to the events affecting the city, most importantly Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Enrollment reached approximately 369 students in the 2008-09 academic year, growth that can be primarily attributed to the comprehensive and dynamic SABIS® curriculum, the efficient teaching methods, and the outstanding school staff. These three components smoothly blend in to provide many enriching opportunities to the students of the

school while maintaining a safe and positive learning environment with high expectations for its highly diverse student body.

MSANO's track record of academic success was recognized this year with a three-year charter renewal. This move will allow the school to grow further and continue to provide high-quality education to the New Orleans community.

### Campus Facilities



SLO™ Prefects

The Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans is located in the historic Garden District of New Orleans, Louisiana, not far from the world-renowned Audubon Zoo. The campus is located on a majestic tree-lined residential street surrounded by unique single family homes. The architectural design of facility is a distinctive two storey construction of brick and stucco with large floor to ceiling windows around the entire perimeter of the building, providing significant natural light for each classroom. The gated campus includes a private courtyard for gatherings and sports.

Once inside, the interior of MSANO has an open layout with glimmering terrazzo floors, large, spacious classrooms and bright hallways decorated by students work. The facility has a full kitchen, cafeteria, library which houses the Accelerated Reading Program, and a state-of-the-art computer room.

### Academic Achievements

Each year, MSANO students take the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP, iLEAP) standardized state exams. The 2007-08 academic year's results showed a surge in students' scores in English and mathematics in comparison to 2006-07. The passing rate of eighth grade students was 64% on English and 67% on mathematics, as opposed to 46% and 36% respectively in the previous year. For fourth grade students, the 2007-08 passing rate was 66% on English and 60% on mathematics, in comparison to 39% on both English and math in 2006-07.



Promoting a Love of Reading

### SLO™

MSANO students are empowered to contribute to their school in various ways and make a positive difference in the lives of their classmates through the SABIS Student Life Organization®. For that purpose, they get involved in academic and non-academic activities such as tutoring other students, planning sports and social events, organizing community service projects, and much more. They also participate in a number of Student Life Clubs for band, yearbook, drama, books and movies, library, computers, newsletter, games, and sports. Over the past year, some of the activities they were involved in include field trips to the zoo, IMAX, and Atlanta, a display organized by the Spanish department on Cinco de Mayo, and the school fair, among others.



Students Engaged in Art Activities

With its three-year charter renewal in hand together with the solid foundation and preparation for life that the SABIS® Educational System provides, MSANO students will move ahead confidently and continue to successfully face future challenges.

For more information about MSANO, visit [www.msano.sabis.net](http://www.msano.sabis.net).



Graduate Samah  
Abdel Baki

"Professionally, Samah impressed me with his exceptional and well-founded medical knowledge by far exceeding the medical standards." With these words of praise, Shahriar Zehtabchi, MD and Associate Professor at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, recommended ISC Graduate Samah Abdel Baki for a residency program.

Samah Abdel Baki graduated from ISC Choueifat, Lebanon in 1997, and went on to pursue his medical studies at American University of Beirut, Lebanon. There, he gained significant clinical experience and received several awards. Abdel Baki then traveled to the US and joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center to complete his clinical clerkship. As part of the program, he not only participated in many clinical activities but also attended the majority of the didactic sessions and grand rounds.

During his Emergency Medicine clerkship, Abdel Baki impressed his fellow colleagues and seniors with his enthusiasm as a doctor and his dedication as a person. He proved to be broadminded, well-rounded in his overall education, due in part to the solid academic foundation he acquired from SABIS®, and well-aware of the needs of his patients. According to one of his seniors, "Dr. Abdel Baki would be an asset for any residency program."

Abdel Baki recognizes that the high-quality academics and life preparation that he has received at the International School of Choueifat have been instrumental in paving the way for his subsequent achievements. "I am really indebted to the school as a whole as I spent my schooling at SABIS® from 1983 till 1997. SABIS® strengthened my determination to meet head-on the challenges of a tough medical training and constantly seek to further expand my knowledge."

Samah Abdel Baki aims to broaden his medical experiences in the future and is currently contemplating other medical residency programs.

SABIS® is an educational organization that manages K-12 coeducational schools worldwide. Today, the network comprises sixty-one schools spanning across four continents. Since the first school was founded in 1886, thousands of graduates have joined top cities in North America, Europe, Australia & the Middle East.

## MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

The International School of Choueifat - **Choueifat, Lebanon** | The International School of Choueifat - **Sharjah, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Abu Dhabi, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Al Ain, UAE** | The International School of Minnesota - **Minneapolis, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Ras Al Khaimah, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Lahore, Pakistan** | The International School of Choueifat - **Dubai, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Umm Al Quwain, UAE** | The SABIS® International Charter School - **Springfield, Massachusetts, USA** | ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt - **Rhein-Main, Germany** | The International School of Choueifat - **Cairo, Egypt** | The International School of Choueifat - **Koura, Lebanon** | The International School of Choueifat - **Amman, Jordan** | International Academy of Flint - **Michigan, USA** | King Abdul Aziz International School - **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Associate Member)** | The International School of Choueifat - **Doha, Qatar** | The International School of Choueifat - **Damascus, Syria** | The SABIS® International School - **South Phoenix, Arizona, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Muscat, Oman** | Ruwais Private School - **Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - **New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** | Internationale Schule am Rhein - **Neuss, Germany** | The International School of Choueifat - **City of 6 October, Egypt** | Mt. Auburn International Academy - **Cincinnati, Ohio, USA** | The Holyoke Community Charter School - **Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA** | The International School of Choueifat - **Homs, Syria** | SABIS® International School - **Adma, Lebanon** | Cambridge School of Bucharest - **Bucharest, Romania (Licensed Member School)** | Brooklyn Ascend Charter School - **Brooklyn, New York, USA (Licensed Member School)** | Military High School - **Al Ain, UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Manama, Bahrain** | The International School of Choueifat - **Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", UAE** | The International School of Choueifat - **Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq** | SABIS® International School - **Bath, England** | 7 Schools - **Al Ghayathi, Western Region, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | 3 Schools - **Al Silaa, Western Region Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.** | 10 Schools - **Al Maqam, Al Ain Region, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | 4 Schools - **Al Khazna, Al Ain Region, Abu Dhabi, UAE** | International Academy of Saginaw - **Michigan, USA**

**Disclaimer:** As SABIS® is a global organization operating in several countries, English usage in the SABIS® newsletter may vary depending on the style used (U.S./ U.K.) in the region represented.