



Supporting Students from Foster Care and Homeless Settings with the Transition to Postsecondary Education

November 3, 2022



Positive Pathways is funded by DCF and Educate Tomorrow, a non-profit organization.





Topics To Be Covered

- Statistics and trends related to students from foster care and homeless settings pursuing education in Florida.
- State resources available to pursue education beyond high school for students in foster care and students experiencing housing insecurity.
- Discuss Positive Pathways and key contacts around the state in communities and at Florida colleges and universities that can support foster youth postsecondary success.
- Strategies to create a seamless transition from high school to college with community partners.
- Information about FAFSA completion and ways community partners can collaborate to serve students.





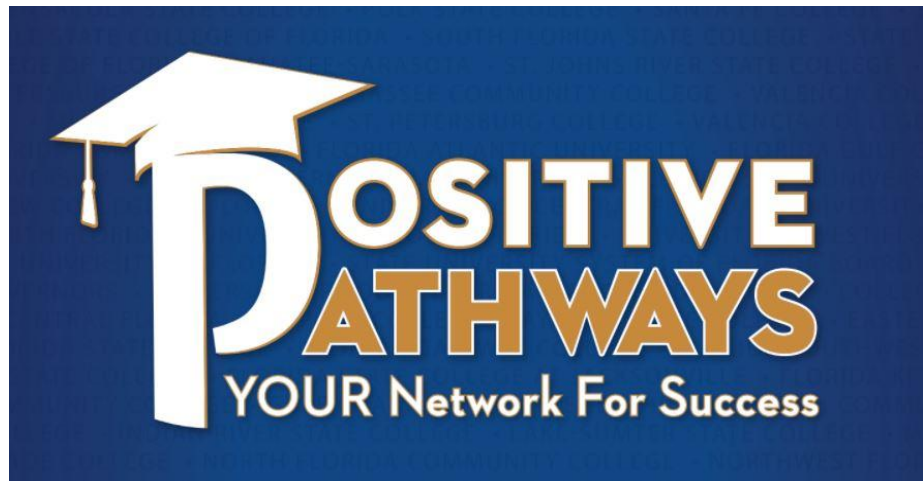
ACTION MODEL





Highlights

- Funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) since 2016
- Unique state-level program aimed at increasing post-secondary educational success among college students who lived in foster care in Florida
- Administered by Educate Tomorrow, a statewide non-profit organization
- Established and supports a network of members
- Began as Florida Reach, a volunteer statewide network
- Has more than 700 individuals on mailing list
- Facebook page of more than 200





Purpose and Benefits

Purpose

To develop and support a statewide network of informed and empathetic, and dedicated education and child welfare professionals to support students from foster care and homeless settings through their journeys to post-secondary completion.

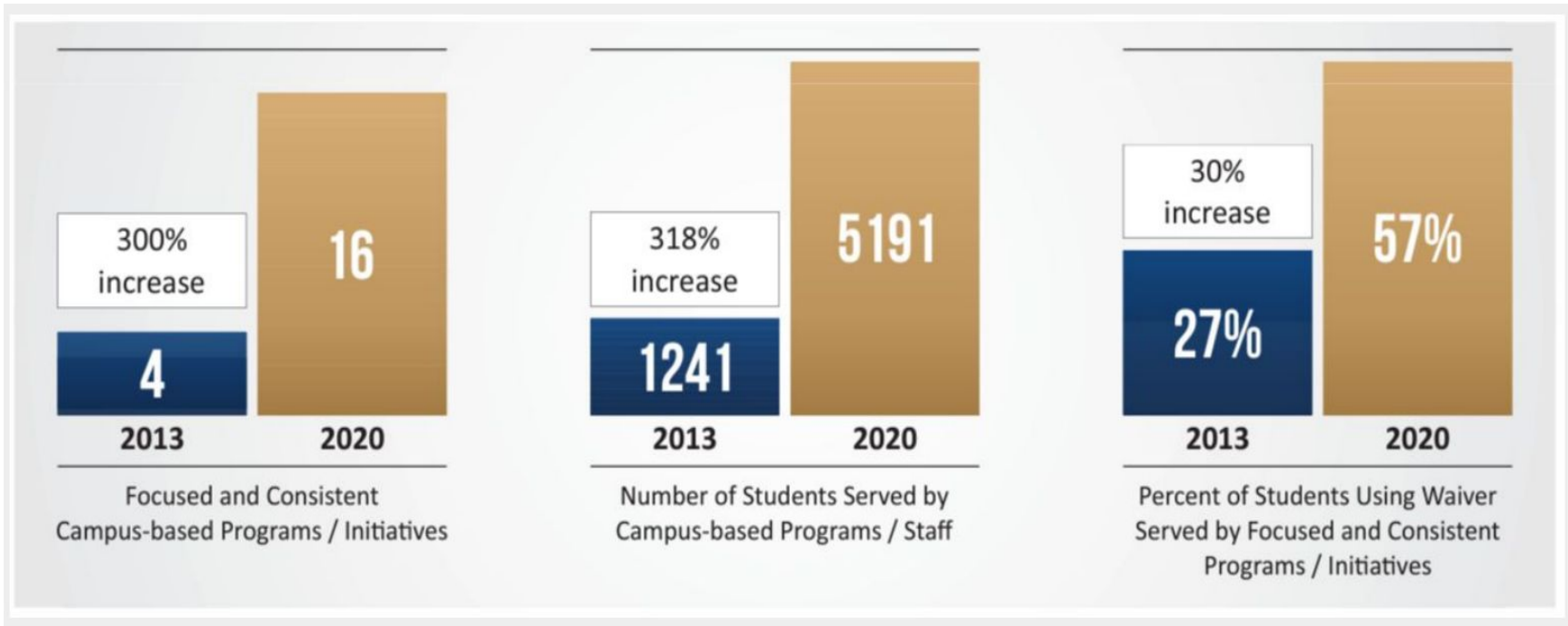
- Monthly network calls
- Targeted professional development
- Extensive and consistent networking opportunities
- Daily access to immediate technical support
- Small group support (College Connection / University Connection)
- Updated resources and directory of campus-based and community-based liaisons





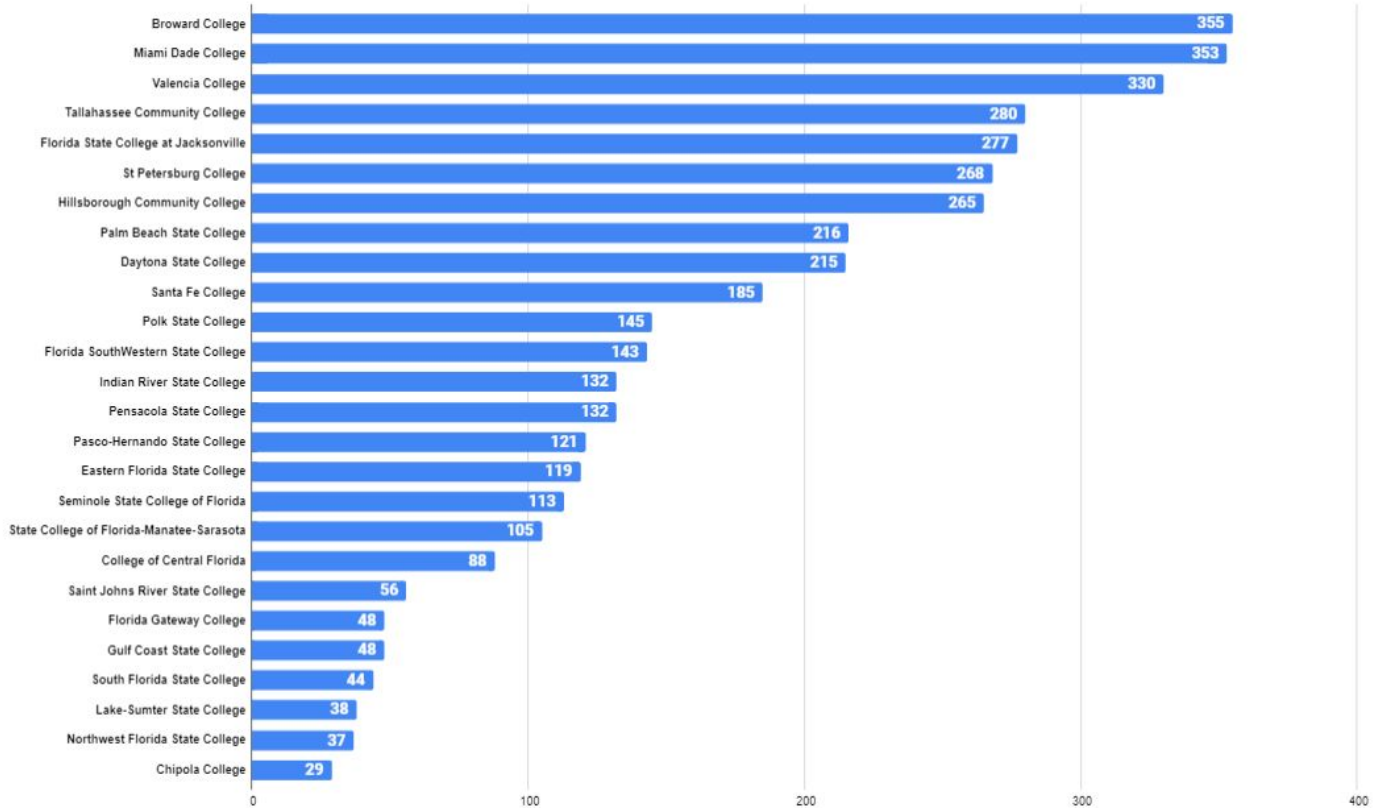
University and State College Campus-Based Programs and Number and Percent of Students Served

2013 to 2020



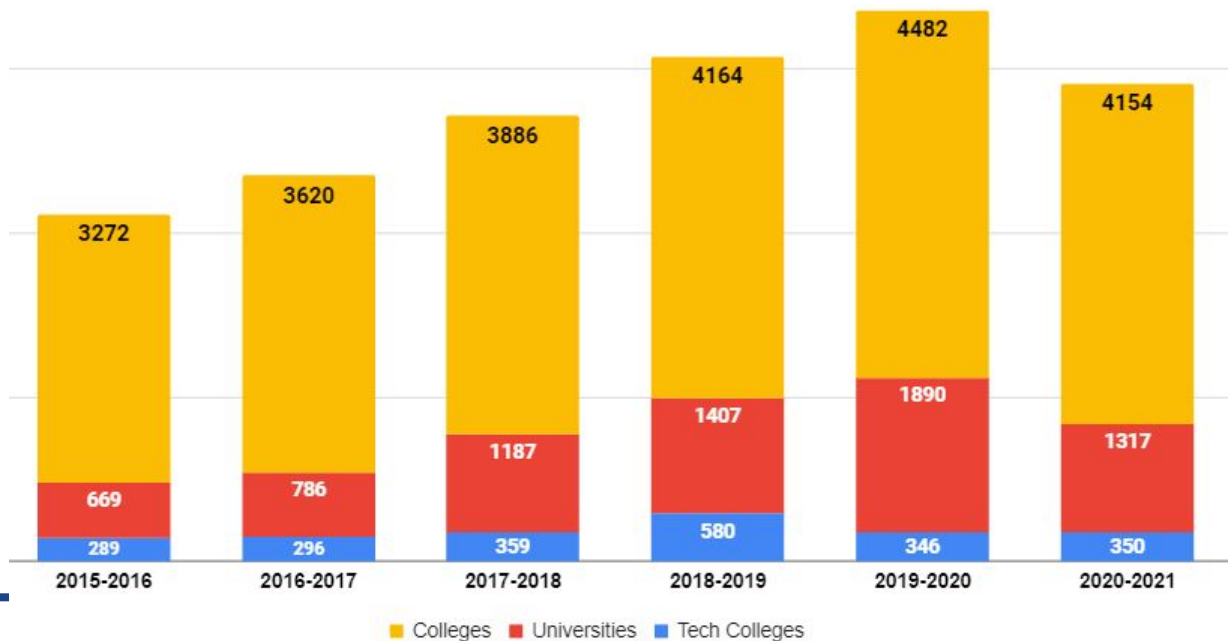
Students Using DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption

2020-2021
Total 4,152

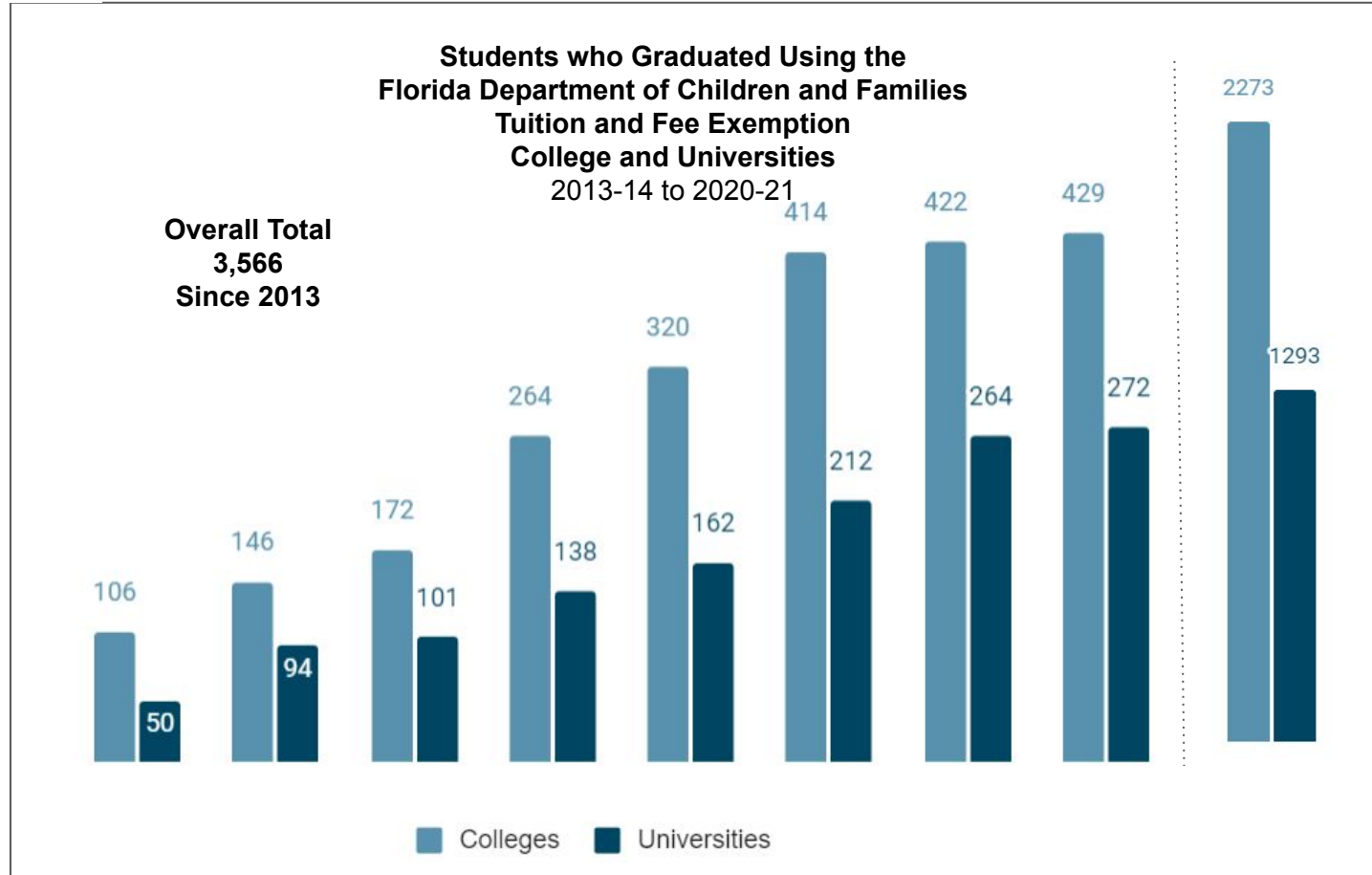




Enrollment Data
University, State College, and Technical College Student
Using Florida Department of Children and Families
Tuition and Fee Exemption
2015-16 to 2020-21

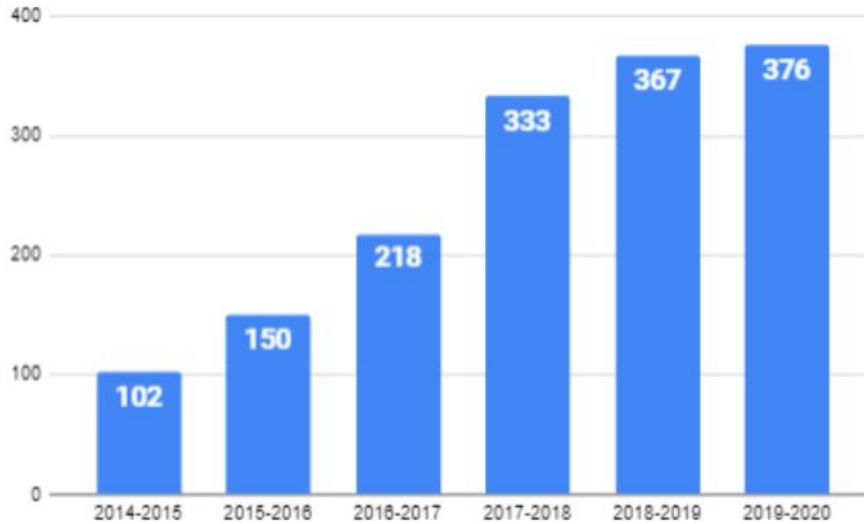


Sources: Florida SUS BOG, 2022; Florida College System, 2022



Sources: Florida SUS BOG, 2022; Florida College System, 2022

Students Using the Florida Department of Children and Families Homeless Tuition and Fee Exemption State Universities 2015-16 to 2019-20



Source: SUS BOG, 2022

Click [HERE](#) for video

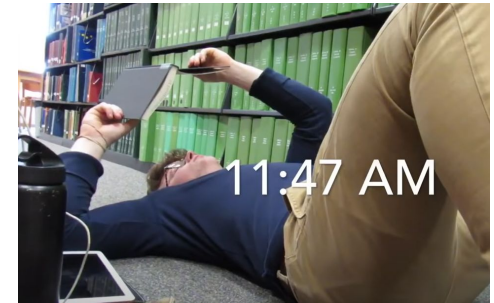


Day in the Life of a Homeless College Student



Jonah Feehery
2.85K subscribers

Subscribe





TOGETHER WE ARE



ACCOUNTABLE - VALUED
EMPOWERED - DETERMINED
TRANSPARENT - OPTIMISTIC
ENGAGED - COLLABORATIVE
IDEAL TEAM PLAYERS

Abigail Phelps (she/hers)

HOPE Navigator & Youth Development Manager
Office of Continuing Care
Florida Department of Children and Families
(850)717-4341 (o) / 850-510-0826 (m)

ADULTING IS HARD. HELP IS AVAILABLE!



Click [HERE](#) for Video

The **Department of Children and Families** recognizes that the transition into adulthood can be tough for young people. For current and former foster youth, it can be even more difficult without an existing support system.

The **Office of Continuing Care**, part of **Hope Florida - A Pathway to Prosperity**, offers free one-on-one help for young people who are about to or have recently transitioned out of foster care, aiming to make the leap into adulthood a positive experience.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 26 and you have (or will) age out of foster care in Florida (including extended foster care), give us a call! The Office of Continuing Care, part of Hope Florida - A Pathway to Prosperity, provides the following services:

- ▶ Connects you to existing resources in your area to help you thrive as an independent young adult
- ▶ Guides you in accessing special services available to former foster youth
- ▶ Gives you a support system to help you with the next steps on your path to adulthood

WE CAN HELP.

When you call the **Hope Line**, you'll speak with a **Care Navigator** who will walk with you on the path to independence.

850-300-HOPE (4673)

WEEKDAYS 8a.m. - 5p.m. EST



FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW



Erykah Jackson,
FAMU Law Graduate,
Class of '22

“

Both Erykah and Amber are determined and focused. They took advantage of the opportunities that were presented to them and maximized the tuition exemptions through hard work and perseverance.

- Varzi Jean-Baptiste
Educate Tomorrow

”

FIU | Law



Amber Mannings
Class of '22
FIU Law Graduate,
with Varzi Jean-Baptiste



Benefits

Extended Foster Care (EFC)

- Young adults who would typically age out of licensed foster care at age 18 can remain in foster care until age 21 — or age 22, if they have a documented disability — while they finish school or gain work skills.



You aged out in the legal custody of DCF

AND

- You are participating in a qualifying activity like;
- Attending high school or working on GED; or
- Enrolled in college or vocational education program; or
- Employed at least 80 hours per month; or
- Participating in a program designed to promote or eliminate barriers to employment.; or
- Have a diagnosed and documented disability that would prevent you from participating in any of the activities listed above.



Benefits

Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS)

- State program for eligible former foster youth
 - Monthly financial payment of \$1,756
 - To secure housing, utilities, and assist with cost of living while attending a Florida Bright Futures-eligible postsecondary educational institution.
-
- Students may be eligible for PESS if:
 - Turned 18 while in the legal custody of the Department and who you have spent a total of at least six months in licensed out-of-home care before turning 18. OR
 - At least 18 and you were adopted after the age of 16 from foster care or placed with a court-approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding such your placement or adoption. AND
 - You have earned a standard high school diploma, or its equivalent. AND
 - Attending a college or vocational school that is Florida Bright Futures eligible.



If not PESS, ETV

federal grant provided to states to help fund eligible former foster youth who are enrolled in postsecondary programs.

18-22, inclusive

The initial application for these funds must be received before the young adult's 21st birthday. ETV grant funds are limited; therefore, financial assistance will be administered on a first come, first served basis.

This program is available until you reach your 23rd birthday.



Florida Statute Related to Fee Exemptions: Students from Foster Care



Click [HERE](#) for video.

The 2022 Florida Statutes

[Title XLVIII](#)
EARLY LEARNING-20
EDUCATION CODE

[Chapter 1009](#)
EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS, FEES, AND
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

[View Entire
Chapter](#)

1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

(1) The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university:

- (a) A student enrolled in a dual enrollment or early admission program pursuant to s. [1007.271](#).
- (b) A student enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program, as defined in s. [446.021](#).
- (c) A student who was the subject of a shelter proceeding, a dependency proceeding, or a termination of parental rights proceeding, and:

1. Is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age, in out-of-home care.

2. Is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative pursuant to s. [39.5085](#) or s. [39.6225](#).

3. After spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was placed in a guardianship by the court.

4. After reaching 14 years of age and thereafter spending at least 18 months in out-of-home care, was reunited with his or her parent or parents who were the subject of the dependency proceeding before he or she reaches 18 years of age, including a student who is reunited under s. [39.8155](#). For a student to be eligible under this subparagraph, the student must be Pell Grant-eligible, and the entity imposing the tuition and fees must verify such eligibility.

5. Was adopted from the department after May 5, 1997.

6. Was placed in a permanent guardianship, regardless of whether the caregiver participates or participated in the Relative Caregiver Program under s. [39.5085](#), and remains in such guardianship until the student either reaches 18 years of age or, if before reaching 18 years of age, he or she enrolls in an eligible institution.



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: July 1, 2022

TO: Family Well-Being Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: Molly McKinstry, Chief of Staff

FROM: Jessica Tharpe, Assistant Secretary for Child and Family Well Being

SUBJECT: Department of Children and Families (DCF) Tuition and Fee Exemption

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding updates to the DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption.

BACKGROUND: Florida public postsecondary education institutions provide eligible former foster students tuition and fee exemptions. To waive tuition and fees, students must obtain a signed CF-FSP 5220, available in DCF Forms, validating eligibility from a Community-Based Care lead agency representative.

Effective July 1, 2022, s. 1009.25 Florida Statutes (F.S.), expands the population of students eligible for the tuition and fee waiver, to include:

- A child that is, or was at the time of reaching 18 years of age, placed in the custody of a relative or non-relative under s. 39.6221, F.S.
- A child who was reunified with his or her parents, who spent at least 18 months in out-of-home care after reaching their 14 years of age, including a reinstatement of parental rights pursuant to s. 39.8155, F.S. Those students who are eligible through the reunification criteria must also be Pell Grant eligible. The Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the postsecondary institutions and not the Department.

All other tuition exemption fee eligibility criteria have remained the same.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum with all child welfare professionals with the Community-Based Care lead agencies, their subcontracted providers, all relevant staff, and caregivers as appropriate. Please make diligent efforts to ensure that eligible youth and young adults are made aware of these changes.

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4190

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun Harris
Secretary

Date: _____

To: Florida Public State University, Public Florida College System Institution, or Public Postsecondary Career and Technical Program

Name of Institution: _____
Email Address Waiver sent to: _____
Email Address of Recipient: _____
Student ID #: _____

From: _____ Department of Children and Families
or Community Based Care Lead Agency

Title: _____

Subject: Tuition and Fee Exemption for Students Receiving or Formerly Receiving Services from the Department of Children and Families

Please accept this letter certifying that _____ (name), whose date of birth is _____, meets one of the following criteria necessary to obtain exemption from paying tuition and fees at a **Florida public** state university, **public** Florida College System institution or **public** postsecondary career and technical program, pursuant to the "Florida K-20 Education Code," Section 1009.25(1)(c), Florida Statutes (check one):

- He or she is, or was at the time of reaching 18 years of age, in out-of-home care.
- He or she was adopted from the Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997.
- He or she is, or was at the time of reaching 18 years of age, placed in the custody of a relative or nonrelative under s. 39.5085, s. 39.6221, or s. 39.6225, F.S.
- He or she was reunified with his or her parents after spending at least 18 months in out-of-home care after reaching 14 years of age, including a reunification pursuant to s. 39.8155, F.S.

The tuition and fee exemption **CANNOT** be used at an out-of-state educational institution or in-state private university, private community college or private postsecondary career and technical program. Please contact the financial aid office at the school to determine whether alternative tuition and fee exemptions or scholarships are available through the school.

Effective July 1, 2010, this exemption remains valid until the young person reaches the age 28, which will occur on _____ (MM/DD/YYYY).

Please contact _____, Florida Department of Children and Families or Community Based Care Lead Agency at _____ to verify information contained in this form or for additional information.

Signature of Community-Based Care Lead Agency Representative

Date Signed

CF-FSP 5220, Jul 2022



Replace with Homeless Waiver Document



Florida Statute Related to Fee Exemptions: Students from Foster Care

Tuition and Fee Exemption

Section 1009.25(1)(f), F.S., allows homeless students to be exempt from paying tuition and fees at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university. To qualify for the exemption, the homeless student must either:

- lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or
- have primary nighttime residence in a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence, transitional living program, or a place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Recent changes made by federal law allow any student who is determined to be an unaccompanied homeless youth for a preceding award year to be presumed homeless for each subsequent year at the same institution unless the student informs the institution that circumstances have changed or the institution has specific conflicting information otherwise.²⁷ This eliminates the requirement that unaccompanied homeless youths' status be redetermined every year.

The definition in s. 1009.25(1)(f), F.S., is inconsistent with the federal definition of homeless children and youth. Current law is also silent on whether documentation must be provided to prove eligibility for a tuition and fee exemption each year.



“I don’t remember what home feels like,” said 24-year-old Ebony Ortega, an ethnic studies major at San Francisco State University. Ortega sleeps in her car, at friends’ apartments or at secret spots on campus.

“It’s been quite some few years since I’ve felt like there’s some sort of comfort, security and just stability,” she added. “It’s hard, it’s really hard.”

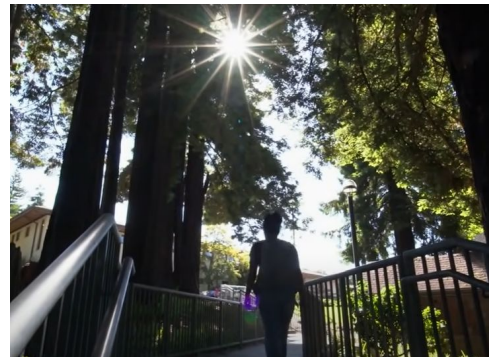




Overview of New State Law Impacted by HB 1577

The bill enacts the following

- Revises definitions of homeless children and youth and certified unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Requires school districts to provide certified unaccompanied youth cards.
- Requires certified school districts programs, public colleges, and state universities to have a liaison to provide assistance to eligible students.
- Requires the Office of of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a student on the services provided to Florida's homeless students.



Click [HERE](#) for video.



BILL #: CS/CS/HB 1577 Homeless Youth

SPONSOR(S): Health & Human Services Committee, Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, Woodson and others

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1708

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Homeless youth, often referred to as unaccompanied youth, are individuals under the age of 18 who lack parental, foster, or institutional care. Each year, an estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness in the United States. Unaccompanied youth, because of their disability of nonage and finances, face particular challenges, such as accessing routine health care. During the 2019-20 school year, 6,926 of Florida's students were unaccompanied homeless youth.

An unaccompanied homeless youth who is 16 or older and meets the federal definition of an "unaccompanied homeless youth" may become certified to receive certain benefits, including obtaining an identification card at no cost, the ability to petition the court to have the disabilities of nonage removed, and to consent to certain medical treatment.

CS/CS/HB 1577 addresses the needs of homeless children and young adults. Specifically, the bill:

- requires district school boards to issue a certified unaccompanied homeless youth a card that includes information on his or her rights and available benefits, and allows health care providers to accept the issued card as proof of the young adult's status as a certified unaccompanied homeless youth.
- expands the Keys-to-Independence program to unaccompanied homeless youth who meet certain requirements.
- waives fees for copies of a birth certificate for certified unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults who aged out of foster care.
- requires postsecondary institutions to have liaisons to assist former foster children and young adults and those experiencing homelessness to help students with issues related to the use of a tuition and fee exemption.
- requires postsecondary institutions to retain original documents on a student's tuition and fee exemption, and prohibits additional request for such documentation.
- and directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to evaluate the effectiveness of campus liaisons.
- amends the definition of which students qualify for a tuition and fee exemption as homeless children and youth to align with federal law.
- requires any student determined to be an unaccompanied homeless child or youth for a tuition and fee exemption for a preceding year to be presumed homeless for subsequent years unless an institution has conflicting information.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state government or local governments.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2022.





How Great is the Need?

Total Homeless Population	27,487
Total Family Households Experiencing Homelessness	2,294
Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	2,436
Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness	5,182
Unaccompanied Young Adults (Aged 18-24) Experiencing Homelessness	1,331
Total Number of Homeless Students	91,068
Total Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Students	7,061
Nighttime Residence: Unsheltered	6,717
Nighttime Residence: Shelters	7,606
Nighttime Residence: Hotels/motels	11,004
Nighttime Residence: Doubled up	65,741





Front of Form Must Include

- Circumstances that qualify the youth
- Date youth was certified; and
- Name, title, and signature of the certifying individual (e.g., district's designated liaison)
- Back of form must include Section 743.067



Revised DCF Form

Front

Describes
specific living
situation the
student might be
in.

HB 1577 required
updates to the form



Certified Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Form for the Purposes of Accessing Health Services, Identification Cards, and Birth Certificates in the State of Florida



Re: _____ of Birth: _____
Name (First, Middle Initial, Last) of Youth (MM/DD/YYYY)
Please type or print clearly.

Current Mailing Address of Youth (if none, please list name, mailing address, and telephone number of current contact):
(Name) (Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code) (Telephone)

Per Section 743.067, Florida Statutes, I am authorized to certify that this youth is an unaccompanied homeless youth based on the circumstance(s) identified below (check all that are appropriate):

____ The above-named youth meets the definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth per section 743.067(1), Florida Statutes, as "an individual who is 16 years of age or older and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including a youth who has run away from home, who has been forced to leave his or her home, or whose parents have left the area and left the youth behind."

____ The above-named youth meets the definition of homeless children and youths in s. 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (MVA)*, 42 U.S.C. §11434(a), and is eligible for services pursuant to the MVA, 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435 because the youth lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence including:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- is living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- is living in emergency or transitional shelter or was abandoned at a hospital;
- has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- is living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings;
- is a migratory child who qualifies as homeless because the child is living in circumstances described above.

*A youth who meets the definition of homeless child and youth in s. 725 of the MVA may be eligible for federal assistance provided through the Act.

I am providing this form of certification as the (please check one):

- ____ School district's liaison for homeless children and youths
- ____ The director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the director's designee
- ____ The director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or the director's designee
- ____ A continuum of care lead agency, or its designee

____, as authorized above, also hereby certify that the above-named youth was identified as an unaccompanied homeless youth on _____
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Printed Name of Certifying Individual Signature Date Signed

(Title of Certifying Individual) (Agency/School District of Certifying Individual)

(Email of Certifying Individual) (Telephone Number of Certifying Individual)

Should you have additional questions or need more information about this youth, please contact me at the number or email listed above.

I, _____, hereby attest that the information provided by me is true to the best of my knowledge.
(Certified Unaccompanied Homeless Youth)





Back of Card

Section (s.) 743.067, Florida Statutes (F.S.), provides that this certified unaccompanied homeless youth may consent to medical care; dental care; behavioral health care services, including psychological counseling and treatment, psychiatric treatment, and substance abuse prevention and treatment services; and surgical diagnosis and treatment, including preventative care and care by a facility licensed under chapter 394, chapter 395, or chapter 397 and any forensic medical examination for the purpose of investigating any felony offense under chapter 784, chapter 787, chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, for himself or herself or his or her child, if the certified youth is unmarried, is the parent of the child, and has actual custody of the child.

A certified unaccompanied homeless youth may use the Department of Children and Families Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Certificate form, to apply at no charge for an identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles pursuant to s. 322.051(9), F.S. and/or receive a certified copy of his or her birth certificate at no charge under s. 382.0255, F.S.

A certified unaccompanied homeless youth may petition the circuit court to have the disabilities of nonage removed under s. 743.015, F.S. The youth shall qualify as a person not required to prepay costs and fees as provided in s. 57.081. The court shall advance the cause on the calendar.

Certified through June 30, 2023



S. 1001.42, F.S. - Certified Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Card

Card Requirements

- Similar in size to the student identification card issued to district students
- Information on the rights and benefits for certified unaccompanied homeless youth
- School district's homeless liaison's contact information

Front of Card Information

- Circumstances that qualify the youth
- Date youth was certified
- Name, title, and signature of the certifying individual (e.g., district's designated homeless liaison)

ID Card
Similar to Form, which
comes first. No card
without form.

S. 1001.42, F.S. - Certified Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Card

Required
on Back

Back of Card Information

NOTE

“Section 743.057, Florida Statutes, provides that this certified youth may consent to medical care; dental care; behavioral health care services, including psychological counseling and treatment, psychiatric treatment, and substance abuse prevention and treatment services; and surgical diagnosis and treatment, including preventative care and care by a facility licensed under chapter 394, chapter 395, or chapter 397 and any forensic medical examination for the purpose of investigating any felony offense under chapter 784, chapter 787, chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, for himself or herself or his or her child, if the certified youth is unmarried, is the parent of the child, and has actual custody of the child.”

A health care provider may accept the completed DCF form or the school district card issued under s. 1001.42, F.S., and keep a copy of either in the youth's medical file.



Florida McKinney-Vento Program District Contact Directory

<u>District</u>	<u>Office Address</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Alachua	620 East University Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601	Fifi Pierre	Homeless Liaison	352-955-7454	pierresj@gm.sbac.edu
Baker	312 South Blvd. East Macclenny, FL 32063	Traci Wheeler	Director of Accountability and Special Programs	904-259-6676	Traci.wheeler@bakerk12.org
Bay	1311 Balboa Ave. Panama City, FL 32401	Kay Daniel	Homeless Liaison	850-767-4193	daniezk@bay.k12.fl.us
		Eugenia Robinson	Supervisor, Title I	850-767-4354	robiner@bay.k12.fl.us
Bradford	501 W. Washington St. Starke, FL 32091	Sherree Alvarez	Director, Teaching, Learning & Curriculum	904-966-6816	Alvarez.sherree@mybradford.us
		Mercedo Davis	Homeless Liaison	904-966-6021	davis.mercedo@mybradford.us
Brevard	2700 Judge Fran Jamison Way Melbourne, FL 32940	Ivette Collado	District Liaison	321-633-1000 Ext.11294	collado.ivetete@brevardschools.org
		Christine Moore	Assistant Superintendent of Student Services	321-633-1000 Ext.270	Moore.christine@brevardschools.org
		Christopher Reed	Director, Student Services	321-633-1000 Ex.: 11569	reed.christopher@brevardschools.org
		Tarina Sanchez	Administrative Technician, TIXPA Grant	321-633-1000 Ext.11557	Sanchez.tarina@brevardschools.org
Broward	1400 NW 14 th Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311	Carole Mitchell	Homeless Education Assistance Resource Supervisor	754-321-1566	Carole.mitchell@browardschools.com
		Gabriela Rafford	Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team Program Specialist	754-321-1566	Gabriela.barros@browardschools.com





Financial Resources

DCF Tuition
Waiver

Homeless Tuition
Waiver





Barriers to Retention

Lack of financial support

Uncertain how to ask for help

Difficulty navigating the college system

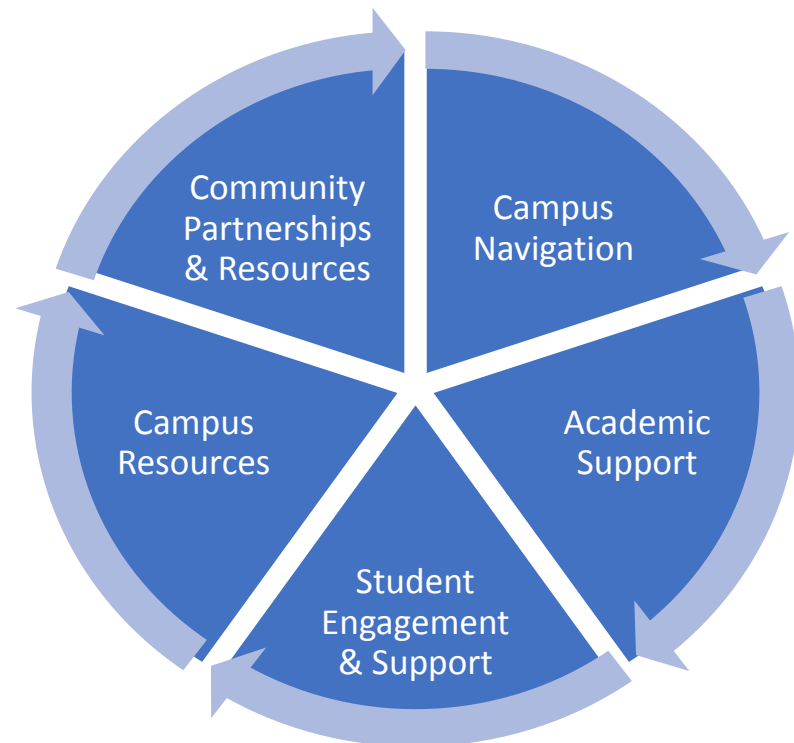
Housing instability

Rising cost of living





Pathway to College Success





Supporting Foster Youth & Homeless Youth: Collaboration is **Key**.

Campus Resources

Academic Advising

Controllers Office

Dean of Students

Financial Aid

Housing

Health Services/Counseling

Community Partners





CITRUS COUNTY COALITION FOR COLLEGE & CAREERS

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

-Henry David Thoreau

- WHAT?
- SO WHAT?
- NOW WHAT

PATHWAYS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The Citrus County Coalition for College & Careers is a nonprofit organization that works with community partners to support and provide resources that advance students' educational goals. Volunteers meet with students to help with post-secondary plans, including entry to Colleges & Universities, Career & Technical Schools, Military, and straight into careers.



Colleges
& Universities



Career &
Technical
Schools



Military



Careers



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
-Henry David Thoreau

WHAT caused us to start this volunteer organization?

- School guidance counselors felt that it was becoming more complex with more time needed to assist students with post-secondary plans.
- “As a former high school principal and district administrator for data, testing, and accountability, I personally witnessed students, with great potential, graduating high school WITHOUT a post-secondary plan.”
- It appeared that there was less home support for students as they plan for post-secondary learning (increase in homeless students, students raised by someone other than parents, first generation college bound students, etc.).
- The process for applying to colleges, universities, and technical schools, including financial aid, was becoming more complex.



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
-Henry David Thoreau

SO, WHAT do we do?

- Assist students, one-on-one, with college planning and application process:
 - Volunteers help students with online college applications and FAFSA applications once a week, every week of the school year
 - All information and meeting notes are collected and entered in an Excel document on the school district's Google share folder so that counselors/administrators have access
(County School district has 3 high schools, graduating approximately 1,000 students each year)
- Provide a two-day summer program for rising seniors, *SUMMER RISE*, to prepare for the post-secondary planning process:
 - Partner with Citrus County School District, CC Education Foundation, Suncoast YMCA, and the College of Central Florida
- Provide scholarships (In 2022, 81 students received \$68,000.00 in scholarship awards from CCCCC)
- Help with ACT, SAT, and ASVAB test preparation



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
 -Henry David Thoreau

NOW WHAT are we doing to remove barriers for students, especially for our most at-risk graduates?

- Promoting and continuously update our website to help students & families

www.citruscollegecoalition.org

- Prioritize support for Foster Care students, McKinney Vento students, 1st generation college students, students with guardians other than parents, undocumented students



State Colleges



Florida Shines Virtual Campus Tours
 Take a virtual tour of these State Universities and Colleges in Florida!



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
-Henry David Thoreau



FINALLY, FAFSA - WHAT are the challenges and how to help students who may be identified as independent?

Foster Care Program

The screenshot shows the FAFSA form interface. At the top, it says "2023-24 FAFSA Walkthrough Video (English)". Below that is the "Federal StudentAid" logo. The main heading is "2023-24 FAFSA Form". A progress bar shows seven steps: 1. Student Demographics (highlighted), 2. School Selection, 3. Dependency Status, 4. Parent Demographics, 5. Parent Financials, 6. Student Financials, and 7. Sign & Submit. The current section is "STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS" with the sub-heading "Student Foster Care and Parent Education Completion". The question is "Are you a foster parent or were you in the foster care system at any time?". There are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". Below this is a question "What's the highest school completed by Foster ID?" with a dropdown menu set to "Select". The video player controls at the bottom show the video is at 1:17 / 33:21.

If Yes, Independent

Student is Married or Has Dependents:

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2023-24 form. The 'Special Needs Status' section is highlighted. A blue box contains the text: "Are you or your spouse or partner a special needs individual? (See the instructions for more information.)". Below this, there is a dropdown menu with "No" selected.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2023-24 form. The 'Do you have dependents?' section is highlighted. The text reads: "Do you have dependents? (See the instructions for more information.)". Below this, there are three radio button options: "Yes", "No", and "N/A". The "Yes" option is selected.

If Yes, Independent

1. Active Duty
2. Veteran
3. Since Age 13-Both Parents Deceased
4. Foster Care

5. Dependent or Ward of State
6. Emancipated – Court Determined
7. Someone Other than Parents Have Legal Guardianship - *Court Determined*

The screenshot shows a video player interface for a 2023-2024 FAFSA walkthrough. The video content displays a 'Student Additional Dependency Questions' form. The form title is 'Student Additional Dependency Questions'. Below the title, there is a note: 'Answer the following questions to determine if you are required to provide information about your parents on your FAFSA form. Select all that apply or "None of the above."'. The form contains five questions, each with a checkbox:

- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Has someone other than your parent or step-parent, have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

The video player interface includes a title bar with '2023-2024 FAFSA Walkthrough Video English', a 'Watch More' button, and a 'Share' icon. At the bottom, there is a 'MORE VIDEOS' button, a progress bar showing '9:27 / 33:21 - Dependency Steps', and standard video controls (play, volume, settings, YouTube logo, full screen, and close).

If Yes, Independent (Custody is NOT Legal Guardianship)

Homeless Student (McKinney - Vento)

2023-24 FAFSA Form

Student Homelessness Filter Question

On or after July 1, 2022, were you homeless or were you unaccompanied and at risk of being homeless?

No

Yes

Previous Continue

Student Homelessness Questions

At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did you receive a determination from any of the entities listed below that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Select all that apply or "None of the above."

- Your high school or school district homeless liaison
- The director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- The director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program
- None of the above

Previous Continue

If Yes, Independent (Documentation Needed)



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[PROGRAMS & LIAISONS](#)

[POSITIVE PATHWAYS PODCAST](#)

[THE PATH NEWSLETTER](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

WELCOME TO POSITIVE PATHWAYS

Informed, empathetic and professional support for students from foster care, adoptive homes, and homeless settings.



Monthly Network Call
First Wednesday of Each Month | 1:30 – 2:30 PM
Monthly New Member Orientation | 2:30 – 3:00 PM





Educate Tomorrow at FAU

The Educate Tomorrow at FAU Program is a student support program designed to support FAU students who receive the DCF or homeless tuition waiver. We provide students with wrap around support services from admission to graduation, with a goal of creating a strong foundation of support, academic coaching and advising, and access to services on and off campus in order to increase academic progress and graduation rates. For more information click [here](#).

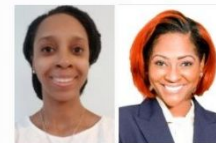


Joe Murray
Associate Dean, University
Advising Services
Director, Educate Tomorrow at FAU
Program
(561) 297-3064
educatetomorrow@fau.edu



Educate Tomorrow @ Miami Dade College

Educate Tomorrow at Miami Dade College is a student support program that supports MDC students from foster youth, as well as homeless, unaccompanied or other disadvantaged youth. We also help students who receive the Department of Children and Families tuition waiver. We offer academic support and mentoring services through our Changemaker Corps Peer Mentor Program with the goal of creating a strong network of support, streamlined academic and financial advising, and access to services in the community in order to increase academic progress and graduation rates. For more information click [here](#).



Wendy Joseph, MSW
Campus Coach
North Campus
(305) 237-1514

Sandra Seymour Obas
Campus Coach
Kendall Campus
(305) 237-8888

[MORE INFO](#)



Fostering Panther Pride

Florida International University's Fostering Panther Pride (FPP) program offers tailored academic and support services to students identified as formerly in foster care or homeless.

Launched in 2013, the primary goal of FPP is to assist former foster care youth and homeless students in their transition to FIU, their retention and graduation, and their pursuit of securing employment or graduate studies upon receiving their bachelor's degree.



Anna Ramos
Program Director, *Fostering Panther Pride*,



The Unconquered Scholars Program

The Unconquered Scholars Program provides an array of support services promoting overall success to youth who experienced foster care, homelessness, relative care, or ward of the State status. Many Scholars have faced profound hardships during childhood that may increase their risk of leaving academia without a degree. In fact, research indicates former foster youth are far less likely to earn a degree than their non-foster care peers. Florida State University is committed to meeting the unique needs of Unconquered students so they experience the long-term professional and personal benefits associated with educational attainment. For more information click [here](#).



Caitlin Cates
Program Coordinator
Unconquered Scholars
(850) 644-3605
cmcates@fsu.edu



State College Liaisons and Coaches

State College Liaisons

Type something in the input field to search the table for first names, last names or emails:

The following is the list of State College Liaisons

Firstname	Lastname	University	City	position	Email	Phone
Anelle	Moss	Broward College (Central)	Davie	Coordinator, Student Success	amos3@broward.edu	954-201-4859
Roslyn	Bailey-Oddman	Broward College	Davie	Coordinator, Student Success	rbailey2@broward.edu	954-201-8407
Melanie	Gnaizda-Gilson	Broward College (North)	Coconut Creek	Coordinator, Student Success	mgnaizda@broward.edu	954-201-2310
Melissa	Cauley	Chipola College	Marianna	Director of Student Services	cauleym@chipola.edu	850-526-2761 Ext. 2451





Technical School Liaisons

This will be updated with the liaisons as opposed to the directors

Search for names..

Center	Name	Title	Email	Phone	City
Baker County Adult Education Center	Ms. Ann Watts	Director	ann.watts@bakerk12.org	(904) 259-0403	Baker County
CTE and Adult Community Education	Mrs. Enid Valdez	Director	enid.valdez@browardschools.com	(754) 321-8444	Broward
Charlotte Technical College	Ms. DeeLynn Bennett	Director	deelynn.bennett@yourcharlotteschools.net	(941) 255-7500 Ext. 101	Charlotte
Charlotte County School District	Ms. DeeLynn Bennett	Director	deelynn.bennett@yourcharlotteschools.net	(941) 255-7500 Ext. 101	Charlotte
Postsecondary, Adult & Community Education	Ms. Yolanda Flores	Administrative Director	floresyo@collierschools.com	(239) 377-0904	Collier



Regional Points of Contact

These individuals have agreed to provide guidance and assistance to any student who may not be able to reach a campus-based liaison.

#	Region	Point of Contact	Contact Information
1.	Northeast	Shay Rizaire	Community Liaison, Allan Madden Foundation, ShayRazaire@AlanMaddenFoundation.org, (352) 800-9863
2.	Northwest	Shay Rizaire (Interim)	Community Liaison, Allan Madden Foundation, ShayRazaire@AlanMaddenFoundation.org, (352) 800-9863
3.	Central	Jasmine Moore, M.S.Ed.	Success Coach, Educate Tomorrow Corp., Jasmine@educatetomorrow.org, (409) 996-1369
4.	Suncoast	Dr. Jamie Bennett, LMSW, ACC	Executive Director, Cetera, Inc., (269) 271-1608, Jamie@jbtraining.com
5.	Suncoast	Dr. Althea K. Blake	Program Manager, LEAP Tampa Bay College Access Network, ablake@cftampabay.org, (813) 263-3334
6.	Southeast Region	Jasmine Moore, M.S.Ed.	Success Coach, Educate Tomorrow Corp., Jasmine@educatetomorrow.org, (409) 996-1369
7.	Southern	Wendy Joseph	College Coach. ET and Miami Dade College, (786) 371-9916, wjoseph@mdc.edu



If you are not able to reach a campus-based foster care liaison / campus coach, or a regional point of contact, please contact Dr. Steve J. Rios, Senior Director of Positive Pathways, at (786) 223-6884. You can text after working hours or email Pathways@EducateTomorrow.org.



Helping Students with Accommodations Transition to Higher Education

Session 2(B)

Resources Disability: Postsecondary Education Support
Independent Living ZOOM Webinar

May 28, 2021

Dr. Steve J. Rios

Senior Director
Positive Pathways Program
Florida Department of Children
and Families



Amiee Stubbs, MA., EdS.

Associate Director
Accessibility Resources



Marquina Butts-Fisher

Independent Living Coordinator



Shay Razaire

Director of Community Engagement
Alan Madden Foundation
Guardian ad Litem



Map of Locations of State University System of Florida Institutions and Links to Offices of Accessibility / Disability Services

Click [HERE](#).



Click [HERE](#).



Click [HERE](#).



Click [HERE](#).



STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

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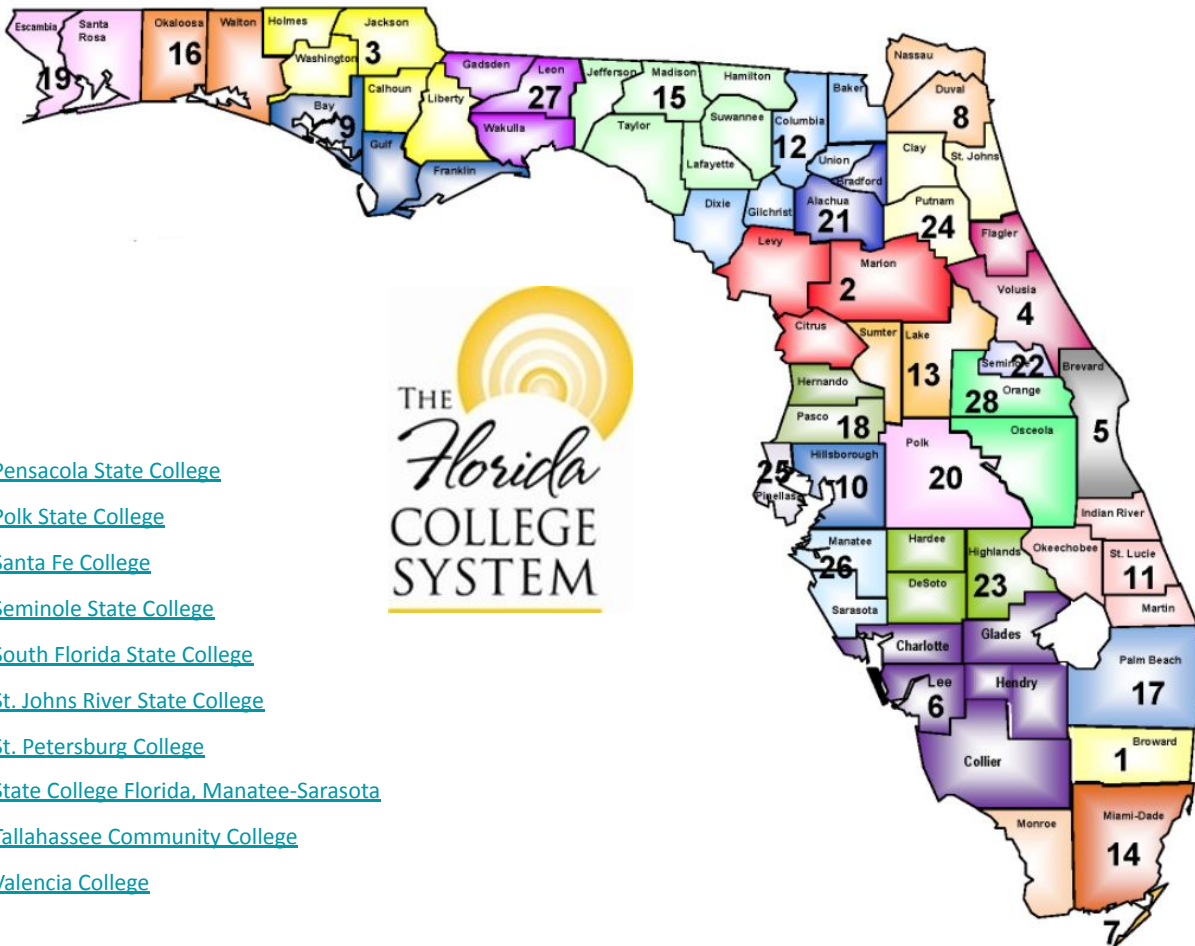




Links to Disability / Accessibility Resources Departments within the Florida College System

1. [Broward College](#)
2. [College of Central Florida](#)
3. [Chipola College](#)
4. [Daytona State College](#)
5. [Eastern Florida State College](#)
6. [Florida Southwestern State University](#)
7. [College of the Florida Keys](#)
8. [Florida State College at Jacksonville](#)
9. [Gulf Coast State College](#)
10. [Hillsborough Community College](#)
11. [Indian River State College](#)
12. [Florida Gateway College](#)
13. [Lake Sumter State College](#)
14. [Miami Dade College](#)
15. [North Florida Community College](#)
16. [Northwest Florida State College](#)
17. [Palm Beach State College](#)
18. [Pasco-Hernando State College](#)

19. [Pensacola State College](#)
20. [Polk State College](#)
21. [Santa Fe College](#)
22. [Seminole State College](#)
23. [South Florida State College](#)
24. [St. Johns River State College](#)
25. [St. Petersburg College](#)
26. [State College Florida, Manatee-Sarasota](#)
27. [Tallahassee Community College](#)
28. [Valencia College](#)





**SAVE
THE DATE!**



**2022 Annual
Conference**

THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Only
\$59!



May 9
1-5 pm
&
May 10
8-11:30 am

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando
Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746





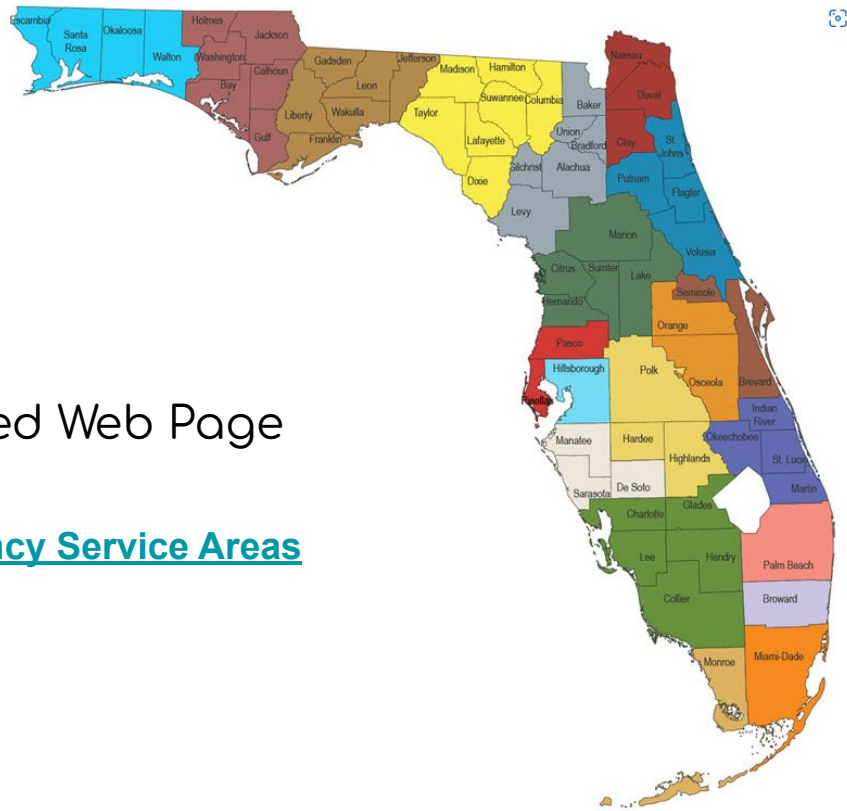
Continuums of Care and Local Providers of Service

Organizations composed of representatives of nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, etc.

Model Components:

1. Outreach, intake, and assessment to link housing and services to the needs of those who are homeless.
2. Services and resources to prevent housed persons from becoming homeless or returning to homelessness.
3. Emergency sheltering as a safe alternative to living on the streets.
4. Transitional housing to move persons toward permanent housing solutions.
5. Permanent housing to end episodes of homelessness.
6. Supportive services designed to assist the person with necessary skills to secure and retain permanent housing.





Hyperlinked Web Page

[CoC Lead Agency Service Areas](#)





Continuums of Care and Local Providers of Service

Alachua County	Escambia County	Jackson County	Okaloosa County
Baker County	Flagler County	Jefferson County	Okeechobee County
Bay County	Franklin County	Lafayette County	Orange County
Bradford County	Gadsden County	Lake County	Osceola County
Brevard County	Gilchrist County	Lee County	Palm Beach County
Broward County	Glades County	Leon County	Pinellas County
Calhoun County	Gulf County	Levy County	Polk County
Charlotte County	Hamilton County	Liberty County	Putnam County
Citrus County	Hardee County	Madison County	St. Johns County
Clay County	Hendry County	Manatee County	St. Lucie County
Collier County	Hernando County	Marion County	Santa Rosa County
Columbia County	Highlands County	Martin County	Sarasota County
DeSoto County	Hillsborough County	Miami-Dade County	Seminole County
Dixie County	Holmes County	Monroe County	Sumter County
Duval County	Indian River County	Nassau County	Suwannee County



CoC Lead Agency Service Areas



CoC #	Contact	Continuum of Care	Counties Served
FL-500	<p>Chris Johnson P – 941/955-8987 F – 941/209-5595 chris@suncoastpartnership.org www.suncoastpartnership.org</p>	<p>Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness 1750 17th Street, Bldg. C-1 Sarasota, FL 34234</p>	<p>Manatee, Sarasota</p>
FL-501	<p>Antoinette Hayes-Triplett P – 813/223-6115 F – 813/223-6178 triplett@thhi.org www.thhi.org</p>	<p>Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative 601 East Kennedy Boulevard, 24th Floor Tampa, FL 33602</p>	<p>Hillsborough</p>
FL-502	<p>Amy Foster P – 727/582-7919 afoster@hlapinellas.org www.pinellashomeless.org</p>	<p>Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas 647 1st Avenue, N., 2nd Floor St. Petersburg, FL 33701</p>	<p>Pinellas</p>
FL-503	<p>Bridget Engleman P – 863/687-8386 F – 863/802-1436 bridget@polkhomeless.org www.polkhomeless.org</p>	<p>Homeless Coalition of Polk County 328 W Highland Drive Lakeland, FL 33813</p>	<p>Polk</p>
FL-504	<p>Jeff White P – 386/279-0029 F – 386/279-0028 jwhite@vfcch.org www.vfcch.org</p>	<p>Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless Mailing Address: P.O. Box 309 Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0390 Physical Address: 324 North Street Daytona Beach, FL 32114</p>	<p>Volusia, Flagler</p>
FL-505	<p>Sarah Yelverton P – 850/362-7429 sarah@hhalliance.org www.hhalliance.org</p>	<p>Homelessness and Housing Alliance P.O. Box 115 Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549/ 151 Mary Ester Blvd. Unit 509</p>	<p>Okaloosa, Walton</p>





Questions and Answers





www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org

Positive Pathways / Florida Reach

Public group · 289 members

Join Our Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/floridareach>

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WELCOME TO POSITIVE PATHWAYS

We Promote Focused and Consistent Campus-based Support to Help Students Succeed

Positive Pathways is a program funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families and is an initiative of Educate Tomorrow.



Join The Positive Pathways Network

Use the form below to sign up for the Positive Pathways Program's monthly on boarding, your gateway to become a member of the Positive Pathways Network.

Learn about valuable member benefits. We look forward to welcoming you!

First Name	<input type="text"/>	* Required
Last Name	<input type="text"/>	* Required
Email Address	<input type="text"/>	* Required
Password For Future Event Registrations	<input type="password"/>	
Title	<input type="text"/>	* Required
Organization	<input type="text"/>	* Required



www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org

Join Positive Pathways, YOUR Network for Success!

Positive Pathways is a Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) program funded by DCF and Educate Tomorrow, which administers the program. Our mission is to support campus-based foster care liaisons and community partners, including independent living professionals, as they provide focused and consistent support to young adults from foster care and homeless backgrounds who are pursuing post secondary education.

We provide technical assistance, networking services, and professional development. Click [HERE](#) to join the Network. We are YOUR network for success and look forward to working with you.

For more information, reach us at:

- ✉ Pathways@EducateTomorrow.org
- 🌐 www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org
- ☎ (786) 223-6884

Dr. Steve J. Rios, Senior Director
Positive Pathways Program

EDUCATE
TOMORROW



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
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