Did You Know?

19,954
Adolescents aged out of the U.S foster care system in 2017 (U.S Department of Health and Human Services, 2018)

3-11%
Of U.S foster youth who enter post-secondary education graduate with a bachelor's degree (Casey Family Programs, 2011)

More than 4,400
Foster youth in Chicago alone (Children’s Home & Aid, 2016)
15% Of all children under the age of 18 are Black
(Scannapieco, Maria, et al., 2007)

30% Of children entering foster care are Black
(Scannapieco, Maria, et al., 2007)

42% Of Black children living in foster care
(Scannapieco, Maria, et al., 2007)
Introduction

The systematic challenges experienced by foster youth in the U.S have demonstrated a direct impact on their academic progress, achievement, and access to post-secondary education.
Challenges with Leaving Care

**Financial Literacy**
Lack of financial skills and support needed to successfully transition into adulthood

**Housing Insecurity**
Obtaining safe and secure housing is a common concern amongst adolescents aging out of the system

**Healthcare Access**
Adolescents in foster care may face inconsistent access to healthcare and coverage

**Minimal Time**
Foster youth who are soon to age out of the system often have minimal time to prepare for post-secondary education
Challenges with Leaving Care

- Youth who age out of the U.S foster care system are more likely to face...
  - Unemployment
  - Incarceration
  - Teen pregnancy
  - Homelessness
  - Mental health issues
  - Substance abuse
Challenges with Leaving Care

- Research has shown that foster youth who age out of the system are also more likely to display education deficits such as lower standardized test scores, be placed in special education programs, or obtain lower grades.
- Education deficits may be a result of housing instability (e.g. Moving schools more than once a year).
- Foster youth who experience education defects are less likely to progress into higher education.
Perceived Value of Higher Education

- Many foster youth identify post-secondary education as one of the primary ways for them to achieve a better life and future.
- Higher education can mean greater opportunity and stability.
- For some, they may be the first attending university, college, or a vocational program, thus becoming a role model for future generations.
- Overall, foster youth and alumni place high value on higher education.
Barriers to Post-Secondary Success

- Enrollment
- Resources
- Dropout
- Stigma
Post-Secondary Supports

- The Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) offers foster youth up to $5,000 per year to help lower the costs of higher education.
- Some institutions offer campus-based support such as case management, financial assistance, and peer mentoring.
- There is a great need for more post-secondary supports like additional scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial assistance.
- Financial assistance does not compensate for the value of interpersonal connections, mentorship, and support.
How Does This Apply To First Star Academy?
First Star Academy

Our mission

“to ensure foster youth have the academic, life skills, and adult supports needed to transition to higher education and adulthood successfully.”
What Role Do FSA Mentors Play?

- Guidance
- Support
- Motivation
- Role Modeling

- Setting Goals
- Exploring interests
- Tutoring
- Provide Feedback
FAN Model

Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN)

Erikson Institute
Navigating E-Learning
Helpful Tips for New FSA Mentors

- Connection
- Self-awareness
- Collaboration
Helpful Tips for New FSA Mentors

- Self-care
- Leadership
- Patience
References


Thanks!

Does anyone have questions?