
Take Stock in Children

Frequently Asked Questions



Who are the students who are served by Take Stock in Children?

- Our population is comprised of middle and high school students who attend Sarasota County schools.
- They must income-qualify and meet at-risk guidelines.
- They are chosen by an interview committee that represents the local community.
- They are required to have a 2.5 GPA or higher; remain drug-free and crime-free.
- They sign a contract that requires both student and family members to make a long-term commitment.
- Each student is matched with both a mentor and a college success coach to begin their journey. Students must meet at least twice per month with their mentor during the school year and must meet regularly with their college success coach in order to comply with program requirements.
- A probation process is in place to monitor each student's academic standing, behavior, and mentor meetings.

What do I need to know about the Florida Prepaid Scholarship?

- This is a 2-year Florida Prepaid college tuition scholarship with the opportunity to earn a 4-year Florida Prepaid College tuition scholarship.
- This scholarship can be used at any of Florida's 11 State Universities and 28 Florida colleges (formerly known as community colleges). The scholarship pays at the State college tuition rate.
- Students can also pursue a 2-year vocational/technical degree offered at any of the state colleges, i.e., fire academy, police academy, diesel mechanic certification programs.
- Through a \$1 for \$1 match with Florida Prepaid College Foundation, college scholarship plans are purchased prior to students entering the program.
- The scholarship does not cover additional college expenses, such as fees, books, transportation, and housing.
- The scholarship does not guarantee admission to any college or university. Students must complete the traditional application process.

What is the job of a College Success Coach?

- To facilitate college readiness activities that ensure academic success.
- To work closely with both mentors and school personnel to provide each student with tools for future success.

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- To monitor student progress and provide interventions as needed.
 - To maintain accurate, up-to-date files on each student they serve.
 - To assist in both planning and attending Take Stock in Children activities and events.

What other funding sources exist for Take Stock in Children students?

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, gives students access to the largest source of financial aid available to both university and college students. Grants such as Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Teacher Education Assistance for College & Higher Education Grants are examples of grants available. Student eligibility for most federal student aid depends on a variety of factors, including Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the year in college, student enrollment status, and the cost of attendance at the college student will be attending. *FYI: Take Stock in Children staff provide a yearly workshop for seniors in order to facilitate this process.*
- A Florida Bright Futures Scholarship for qualifying seniors also provides funding opportunities for eligible students. The minimum GPA to qualify is a 3.0 plus 75 community service hours.
- The Community Foundation of Sarasota County offers more than 70 scholarship opportunities for Sarasota County students.
- To maintain any scholarship, a student must remain in good academic standing throughout their university/college program of study.

What is our student success rate?

- 97% - High School Graduation Rate
- 88% - College Enrollment Rate
- 70% - College Completion Rate