



EDUCATE
TOMORROW

at

Miami Dade College

A Step by Step Guide to Serving Students on
Campus from Foster Care

WHAT IS EDUCATE TOMORROW?

Educate Tomorrow is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote independence through education and provide mentorship for foster youth, homeless, unaccompanied and other underrepresented youth.



WHO WE ARE

Educate Tomorrow at Miami Dade College is a campus-based student services program that supports students impacted by the child welfare system in their transition to higher education. The program offers individualized academic assistance from enrollment to completion, as well as social supports in an effort to positively impact and increase graduation rates.



WHO WE SERVE

Any student who is/was:

- Impacted by the child welfare system
- In relative/non-relative care
- Adopted from Department of Children and Families (after May 5, 1997)
- Residing in transitional housing



DID YOU KNOW?

Students who age out of the dependency system may qualify for **FREE TUITION** at any Florida public post-secondary institution!!!



DCF TUITION & FEE EXEMPTION FORM



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

Date: _____
To: Florida Public State University, Public Florida College System Institution, or
Public Postsecondary Career and Technical Program
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)-(d), Florida Statutes (check one):

- He or she is or was at the time he or she reached age 18 in the custody of the Department of
Children and Families;
- 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 age 18 in the custody of a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.;
- He or she is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a non-relative under s. 39.5085,
F.S.; or,
- He or she was placed in a guardianship by the court after spending at least 6 months in the custody
of the department after reaching 16 years of age.

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, 2010¹, this exemption remains valid until the young person reaches the age 28, which
will occur on _____**
(MMDD/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

¹ Please note: If you are receiving this form when leaving the custody of DCF, but are not ready to use the exemption at this time,
you will need to read Section 1009.25(1)(c), F.S., to ensure that the statute still provides the tuition and fee exemption for former
foster youth in the category in which you qualify. Florida laws may change from year to year.



WHAT DOES THE DCF TUITION EXEMPTION COVER?

- Tuition and Fees- including Lab Fees
- Workforce Education provided by School Districts
(post-secondary career and technical programs/ trade schools)
- Undergraduate Classes
- Graduate School Classes (Master's or Ph.D programs)

HOW TO ACCESS THE DCF TUITION EXEMPTION FORM

- Contact the Community Based Care (CBC) lead agency in the community where the child welfare case was located.

*An Eligibility Specialist will provide
documentation describing
student's eligibility*



(305) 455-6000
Southern Region-
Miami-Dade & Monroe counties



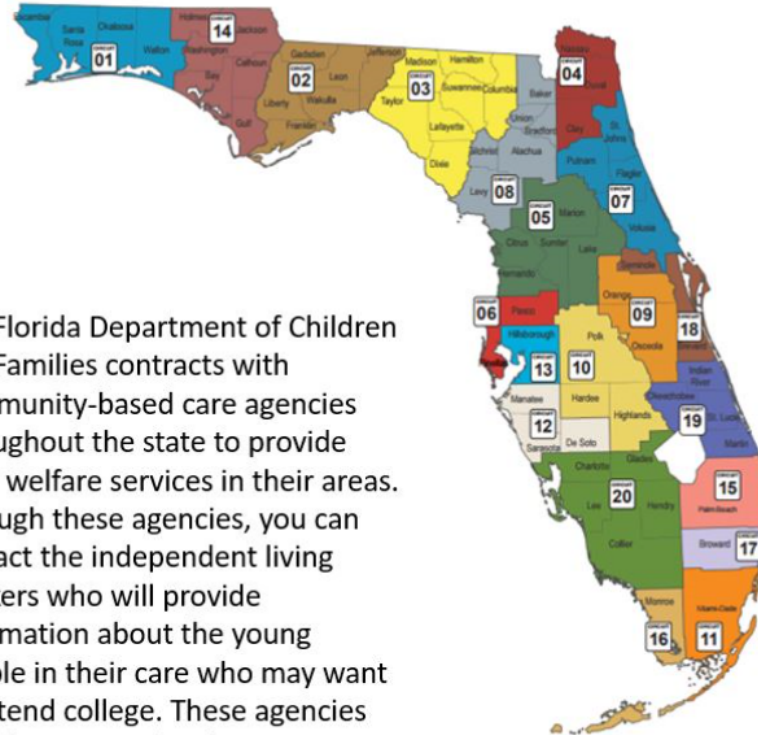
(321) 441-2060
Central Region-
Orange, Osceola & Seminole counties



(954) 414-6000
Southeastern Region-
Broward & Palm Beach counties

COMMUNITY-BASED CARE AGENCIES

LEGEND			
Circuit	Region	Counties	Lead Agency
1		Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	Families First Network
2	Northwest	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Big Bend CBC, Inc.
14		Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Big Bend CBC, Inc.
3		Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	Partnership for Strong Families
4		Clay	Kids First of Florida, Inc.
4	Northwest	Duval, Nassau	Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc.
7	Northwest	St. Johns	St. Johns County Board of Commissioners
7		Flagler, Putnam, Volusia	Community Partnership for Children, Inc.
8		Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Partnership for Strong Families
5		Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter	Kids Central, Inc.
9		Orange, Osceola	CBC of Central Florida
10	Central	Hardee, Highlands, Polk	Heartland For Children
18		Seminole	CBC of Central Florida
18		Brevard	Brevard Family Partnership
6		Pasco, Pinellas	Eckerd Community Alternatives
12	SunCoast	DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc.
13		Hillsborough	Eckerd Community Alternatives
20		Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Children's Network of Southwest Florida
15		Palm Beach	ChildNet, Inc.
17	Southeast	Broward	ChildNet, Inc.
19		Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	Devereux CBC
11	Southern	Miami-Dade	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.
16		Monroe	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.



The Florida Department of Children and Families contracts with Community-based care agencies throughout the state to provide child welfare services in their areas. Through these agencies, you can contact the independent living workers who will provide information about the young people in their care who may want to attend college. These agencies provide support for these young adults and can help foster care liaisons as they work with students receiving the tuition exemption.

WORKING WITH STUDENTS

STEP-BY-STEP SNAPSHOT

Step 1:

- Educate your Campus Community

Step 2:

- Retrieve Referral(s) from Various Sources

Step 3:

- **Initiate contact with students.**

APPOINTMENT PREP

- Gather student information
- Determine the best time and place to meet
- Help the student to identify needs (academic, social, employment)
- Prepare solutions, resources to address student needs
- Confirm the appointment 24 hours prior

INITIAL MEETING

- Establish rapport, set student at ease
- Explain the role of the College Coach
- Complete necessary docs
- Revisit needs in detail
- Discuss solutions (to include proactive steps for the future)
- Set goals and objectives
- Discuss upcoming events and workshops
- Schedule follow-up meeting

FOLLOW-UP MEETING

- Revisit prior needs
- Discuss proactive planning strategies
- Discuss new needs
- Discuss upcoming events and workshops
- Establish meeting schedule

STEP BY STEP SNAPSHOT

Step 4:

- Play the role of an interactive campus map. Navigate various departments with student(s) and encourage them to understand each departments function/purpose

Step 5:

- Utilize a live tracking system that allows you to identify students who do not actively engage and develop proactive steps to provide support/guidance

Step 6:

- Familiarize self with FERPA rules/regulations

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Streamlined On-Campus Student Support Services

- College Coach/ Campus Liaison works in conjunction with staff from Admissions, Academic Advisement, Financial Aid and Bursars (cashier's) office to ensure seamless support

Financial Advising

- Verification of FAFSA completion
- Financial Goal Setting workshops to promote Financial Literacy



Tailored Enrollment/ Academic Support

- Assistance with MDC application and Admissions process
- Establish Florida Residency for in-state tuition status
- Ensure processing of DCF Tuition Exemption form
- Individualized M.A.P (My Academic Plan) course review

Scholarship Opportunities

- AOK Scholars Program
- Lawrence E. White Family Foundation provides emergency funding to students to decrease barriers to academic achievement.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Changemaker Peer Mentoring

- Internship Opportunity through ICED (Institute for Civic Engagement & Democracy) partnership
- Provide Workforce preparation training
- Enhance employability skills
- Earn Monthly Stipend while Receiving College Credits (Earn while you Learn)



Access to On-Campus and Community Resources

- Mental Health Counseling (Trauma-Informed Care)
- Food Pantry (students experiencing food insecurities)
- Transportation Assistance
- Housing Support

Florida Residency Declaration for Tuition Purposes

A Florida "resident for tuition purposes" is a person who has, or a dependent person whose parent or legal guardian has, established and maintained legal residency in Florida for at least twelve (12) consecutive months preceding the first day of classes of the term for which Florida residency is sought.

- D Residence in Florida must be a bona fide domicile rather than for the purpose of maintaining a residence incident to enrollment at an institution of higher education.
- D To qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes, you must be a U.S. citizen, a foreign national in a nonimmigrant visa classification that grants you the legal ability to establish a bona fide domicile in the United States, a Permanent Resident Alien, Parolee, Asylee, Cuban-Haitian entrant, legal alien granted indefinite stay by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or other qualified alien as defined under federal law. Other persons not meeting the twelve-month legal residence requirements may be classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes only if they fall within one of the limited special categories authorized by the Florida Legislature pursuant to section 1009.21, Florida Statutes (see "Qualification by Exception" below). All other persons are ineligible for classification as a Florida "resident for tuition purposes."
- D Living in or attending school in Florida will not, in itself, establish legal residence. Students who depend upon out-of-state parents for support are presumed to be legal residents of the same state as their parents.
- D Residency for tuition purposes requires the establishment of legal ties to the state of Florida. A student must verify that the student has broken ties to other states if the student or, in the case of a dependent student, his or her parent has moved from another state.

Please print if submitting hard copy.

Name of Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Student is a: U.S. Citizen Non-U.S. Citizen Permanent Resident Other

Alien Registration Number: _____ Issue Date: _____

Visa Category _____

All non-U.S. citizen students seeking classification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes are required to submit documentation of their legal status in the United States as issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office.

NON-FLORIDA RESIDENT

I do not qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes for the term for which this application is submitted. I understand that should I qualify for a future term, it will be necessary for me to submit an updated Residency Declaration while providing prescribed supporting documentation to substantiate as "reclassification of my status". I understand being classified as a non-Florida resident will not exclude me from the possibility of receiving a waiver to cover part or all of the out-of-state fee as defined in s. 1009.28, Florida Statutes. Submission of an updated Residency Declaration must occur prior to the beginning of the term for which residency is sought. I do not have to complete any further portion of this form, with the exception of signing below.

Student Name: _____

Signature of Student: (Electronic or ink): _____ Date: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT SEEKING FLORIDA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES:

I qualify as a resident for tuition purposes, as defined by s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes, for the term for which this application is submitted. I understand that it will be necessary for me to present evidence of residency for tuition purposes, supporting my claim as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I have read the residency information on qualifying as a dependent or independent student, and declare that: (select one of the options below).

I am a dependent student, as defined by s. 1009.21(1)(a), Florida Statutes, in that I am eligible to be claimed as a dependent under the federal income tax code by the claimant below. The claimant is my "parent" as defined by s. 1009.21(1)(f), Florida Statutes, (i.e., either or both parents of the student, any guardian of a student, or any person in a parental relationship to the student). My parent has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the past 12 consecutive months. As defined by section 1009.21(1)(d), Florida Statutes, "legal resident" or "resident" means a person who has maintained his or her residence in this state for the preceding year, has purchased a home which is occupied by him or her as his or her residence, or has established a domicile in this state pursuant to s. 222.17." A copy of your parent's tax return may be requested to establish dependence.

I am an independent person who has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the past 12 consecutive months. I provide more than 50% of my own support. An independent student generally includes a person who is at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, a ward of the court, or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, pursuant to the United States Department of Education for the purposes of federal financial aid eligibility. There may be limited cases where a person under the age of 24 years old may qualify as an independent student. Such students will be required to verify independence (including financial independence.) A copy of your tax return may be requested to establish independence.

I meet residency requirements through one of the Qualifications by Exception below (check appropriate exception):

TERM OF APPLICATION: (check one): FALL SPRING SUMMER YEAR: 20_____

QUALIFICATION BY EXCEPTION (to be completed by the student.)

As provided in s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes, I qualify for residency based on the following permitted exception (documentation required):

I am a qualified beneficiary under the terms of the Florida Prepaid College Program (s. 1009.98, Florida Statutes.) (Required: Copy of Florida Prepaid Recipient card.)

I am married to a person who has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the past 12 consecutive months. I now have established legal residence and intend to make Florida my permanent home. (Required: copy of marriage certificate and/or other documents required to establish residency.)

I was previously enrolled at a Florida state postsecondary institution and classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I am transferring to another Florida state postsecondary institution within 12 months of the previous enrollment. (Required: Evidence of previous enrollment as a FL resident)

I was previously enrolled at a Florida state postsecondary institution and classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I abandoned my Florida domicile less than 12 months ago and am now re-establishing Florida legal residence.

Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States residing in this state and their spouses and dependent children, and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard. (Required: Copy of military orders or DD2058 showing home of record.)

Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States and their spouses and dependents attending a Florida College System institution or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida. (Required: Copy of military orders.)

- United States citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama, who have completed 12 consecutive months of College work at the Florida State University Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and dependent children. (Required: Copy of marriage certificate or proof of dependency.)
- Full-time instructional and administrative personnel employed by state public schools and institutions of higher education and their spouses and dependent children. (Required: Employment Verification)
- Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. Any student classified pursuant to this paragraph shall attend, on a full-time basis, a Florida institution of higher education. (Required: proof of scholarship and Latin America or Caribbean residency.)
- Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities. (Required: Certification letter from State Academic Common Market Coordinator.)
- Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training. (Required: Employment verification/payment agreement.)
- McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are United States citizens. (Required: Verification from graduate studies.)
- United States citizens living outside the United States who are teaching at a Department of Defense Dependent School or in an American International School and who enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate. (Required: Proof of enrollment in graduate program for FL teaching certificate.)
- Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in this state under the North American Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a Florida College System institution or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. (Required: Proof of active duty membership for specified purpose.)
- Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a Florida College System institution or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is stationed. (Required: Proof of active duty membership for specified purpose.)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CLAIMANT/PERSON CLAIMING FL RESIDENCY.

Note: If the student is a dependent, the parent is the claimant and will complete this section and provide evidence of residency supporting the claim. If the student is independent, the student is the claimant and will complete this section and provide evidence of residency supporting the claim. **No single document shall be conclusive in establishing residency. Additional documentation, other than what is prescribed, may be requested in some cases. All documentation provided is subject to verification. Evidence of ties to another state may result in denial of Florida residency for tuition purposes.**

Claimant/Name of Person Claiming FL Residency: _____

Claimant's Relationship to Student _____

Claimant's Address: _____

_____ Telephone Number: _____

Date Claimant began establishing legal FL residence (if upon birth, enter birthdate): ____/____/____

PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT CLAIM OF FLORIDA RESIDENCY
Per s. 1009.21(3)(c), Florida Statutes, the residency determination must be documented by the submission of written or electronic verification that includes two or more of the documents identified below. No single piece of evidence shall be conclusive.

- A. Claimant must provide at least one of the following of his/her personal documentations:
- Florida Voter's registration card Number: _____ Issue Date: ____/____/____
 - Florida Driver's license. Number: _____ Original Issue Date: ____/____/____
Current Issue Date: ____/____/____

Florida State identification card. Number: _____ Original Issue Date: ____/____/____
 Current Issue Date: ____/____/____

Florida Vehicle registration. Number/Original Issue Date: _____/____/____
 Issue Date: ____/____/____ Current

- Proof of permanent home in Florida occupied as primary residence for 12 consecutive months prior to the student's enrollment. (Required: document such as a deed or other evidence of title to property used as primary residence, a homeowner's policy, and a title insurance policy, evidence of a property tax payment on the primary residence, multiple leases reflecting a Florida address, or a lease of multiple years' duration.)
- Proof of a homestead exemption in Florida. (Required: document from the county tax collector demonstrating the application of a homestead exemption to the claimant's primary residence.)
- Official transcripts from a Florida high school for multiple years (2 or more years), if the Florida high school diploma or GED® was earned within the last 12 months.
 (Dates of Attendance) _____ (Graduation Date) ____/____/____ (Required: Transcript)

Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week for a 12-month period. (Required: pay stubs or W-2 form for past 12 consecutive months and/or verification from employers, and/or an IRS 1099 with verification of employment for the past 12 consecutive months from an employer.)

B. Claimant may provide one or more documents from the following categories to demonstrate residency in Florida (to be used in conjunction with one document from above):

- Declaration of domicile in Florida in accordance with s. 222.17, Florida Statutes.
- Florida professional or occupational license.
- Florida incorporation.
- Document evidencing family ties in Florida
- Proof of membership in a Florida-based charitable or professional organization.
- Any other documentation that supports your request for resident status, including, but not limited to, utility bills and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; a lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; or an official state, federal, or court document evidencing legal ties to Florida.

RESIDENCY DECLARATION:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I have read the foregoing document and that the facts stated in it are true and further affirm the authenticity of the information provided on all pages of this Residency Declaration. I understand that any false or misleading information on this Residency Declaration, or provided in support of this Residency Declaration, will subject me to penalties pursuant to section 837.08, Florida Statutes, for making a false statement. I give permission for the institution to review or examine any and all documents and records, including those accessible electronically, which may assist in support of my claim as a Florida resident for tuition purposes.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Claimant Name (if not the Student): _____

Signature of Claimant (Electronic or ink): _____ Date: _____

STUDENTS USING DCF EXEMPTIONS AT FL COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS 2016-17

College	2016-17
Florida College System Overall	3,871
Broward College	377
Chipola College	10
College of Central Florida	71
Daytona State College	192
Eastern Florida State College	100
Florida Southwestern State College	102
Florida Gateway College	16
Florida Keys Community College	*
Florida State College at Jacksonville	264
Gulf Coast State College	44
Hillsborough Community College	282
Indian River State College	134
Lake-Sumter State College	35
Miami Dade College	400
North Florida Community College	*
Northwest Florida State College	39
Palm Beach State College	250
Pasco-Hernando State College	101
Pensacola State College	117
Polk State College	131
Saint Johns River State College	51
Saint Petersburg College	206
Santa Fe College	202
Seminole State College of Florida	128
South Florida State College	10
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	93
Tallahassee Community College	196
Valencia College	278

The number of students from care who pay for college using a tuition exemption within the FCS is increasing from 2, 229 in 2015-2016 to 2, 395 in 2016-2017 (a 7% increase).

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

- ET@MDC is one of the first campus-based support program for foster youth in Florida
- MDC serves the largest number of foster care youth in Florida (~400 students)
- Since the program began in 2013, ET@MDC helped raise the number of tuition exemptions utilized across the state from 8 (in 2003) to over 500
- Program began with ONE full-time employee, now has TWO full-time College Coaches
- Summer Executive Internship employed over 50 students
- Over \$75,000 in scholarships awarded to students
- Community partnerships include:

Our Kids, M-DCPS, Casa Valentina, Paragon Partnership,
Citrus Health, Miami-Dade County Homeless Outreach



MIAMI DADE COLLEGE; COLLEGE COACHES



Wendy Joseph

Title: College Coach
Organization: Educate Tomorrow
Email: wjoseph@mdc.edu

Wendy Joseph, College Coach at Miami Dade College, has worked in the field of child welfare for 14 years. Her experiences with case management, residential care and clinical work have allowed her to have a deeper understanding of the underrepresented students she works with. The wrap-around supportive services provided by Ms. Joseph through the Educate Tomorrow at Miami Dade College program continue to directly impact her students' retention and completion rates.



Sandra Seymour Obas

Title: College Coach
Organization: Educate Tomorrow
Email: sobas@mdc.edu

Sandra Seymour Obas is skilled in education and performing advocacy work for culturally diverse youth and adolescents. She is most interested in the opportunities to service students by advocating for educational advancements and ensuring basic needs are met. Sandra's goal is to be a resource for underrepresented youth and to bridge support service programs throughout college/university campuses throughout the state. Sandra has worked directly with young adults who have persevered through the dependency system and have experienced homelessness. She continues to participate in community efforts to properly inform individuals of services that can positively impact one's life. Sandra understands the importance of the Positive Pathways Network and seeks to aide in the mission of increasing the retention and completion rate of students who are often overlooked. Sandra is highly motivated, patient, organized, energetic and able to work independently and as part of a collaborative team. Her desire and passion to encourage students to fulfill their educational achievements will continue to impact the success rates of our students.

QUESTIONS???

