

PATHWAYS TO CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION SUCCESS

Quarterly Newsletter - January 2024



Pathways to CTE Success Partnership Aims to Increase Postsecondary Attainment Among Students from Foster Care and those Experiencing Homelessness

The Florida Department of Education Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division and the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education (FACTE) have partnered with Educate Tomorrow to establish Pathways to CTE Success, a statewide initiative to increase the number of students who obtain certification and postsecondary workforce credentials using the Florida Homeless Tuition Waiver and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) tuition and fee exemption.

Pathways to CTE Success aims to develop a statewide network of informed professionals to support students using the exemptions in school district career and technical education programs, similar to the DCF Positive Pathways Program, which Educate Tomorrow has run for the past eight years. The program includes the following services:

- Recruitment of network members
- Campus visits & presentations by CTE programs
- Quarterly professional development webinars
- Quarterly statewide calls & newsletters
- An annual virtual conference

WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Please complete this brief survey about your program and to join our network.

CLICK HERE

"We are honored that the CTE Division chose our organization to administer this exciting new program, especially during a time when so much focus is being placed on CTE and students from marginalized backgrounds," said Dr. Steve J. Rios. "There is strong interest in Florida in CTE programs and this project is an important step to help ensure resilient young people have access to CTE programs."

The partnership is funded by a Carl D. Perkins Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and was conceived and spearheaded by Bruce Harrington, director of Federal and State Initiatives Section in the Florida Department of Education's Division of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. The project will be led for Educate Tomorrow by Dr. Rios, head of foster care and homeless services, and Jasmine Moore, Senior Director of the Positive Pathways Program. FACTE's Executive Director Marsan Carr will provide fiscal and administrative oversight. A key component of this initiative is to increase awareness among students about the wide variety of well-paying careers that CTE programs can help them prepare for. Another major goal is to provide a forum for CTE campus-based student services personnel to share their knowledge with each other regarding supporting young people from foster care and homeless settings.

The purpose of the Perkins grant is to assist school districts and public two-year colleges to improve secondary and postsecondary-level career and technical education programs. As set forth in Perkins, the main priority is to close the achievement gap for special populations on the Perkins core indicators of performance. During the past few years, CTE leaders and policies have increased their focus on historically marginalized learners, including young adults from foster care and those experiencing housing insecurity. In fact, the latest version of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, Perkins V, specifies youth from care as a “special population” group.

SAVE THE DATES



Statewide Network Meeting

Thursday, February 15th, 2024 1:30-2:30



Join us as we discuss our new partnership and the Open Door Grant Program.
Register [HERE](#).

Pathways to CTE Success 2024 Virtual Conference Friday, May 17, 2024

Pathways to CTE Success 2024 Virtual Conference is scheduled for **Friday, May 17, 2024**. This virtual event will provide professionals with the opportunity to connect and engage with each other as they learn about strategies to support the success of students who receive the DCF and Homeless tuition and fee exemption. Members will also have an opportunity to lead sessions and share their experiences with the network. Additional information will be provided as we get closer to the event.

For more information, please contact
Dr. Steve Rios, Head of Foster Care and
Homeless Services, at
steverios@educatetomorrow.org, or
Jasmine Moore, Senior Director of
Positive Pathways, at
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Dr. Steve Rios



Jasmine Moore



Pathways to CTE Success Team Partners with Broward Foster Care Agencies and Technical College for Series of CTE Campus Visits

The Pathways to CTE Success Program, administered by Educate Tomorrow, will partner with the FLITE Center, the hub of all support services for youth transitioning out of foster care in Broward County, to lead a series of visits to CTE programs. ChildNet, the lead foster care agency in Broward helps promote the events among students.

The plan calls for a visit to McFatter Technical College on February 22, 2024, to Atlantic Technical College on March 20, 2024, and to Sheridan Technical College on April 16, 2024. "Campus tours are an excellent way for young people to experience authentic higher education environments," says Dr. Jennifer Mann, Academic Success Coordinator at the FLITE Center. "We are aiming to show our youth what college really looks like."

These campus visits will provide students with the opportunity to connect with CTE staff, learn about programs offered, and ask questions they have about using the DCF or Homeless Tuition and Fee Exemption. "Many young people don't realize how attainable and valuable technical credentials are," Mann said. "Some of these programs lead to six-figure yearly incomes."

Florida Provides DCF and Homeless Tuition and Fee Exemptions to Students

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Tuition and Fee exemption is for students who have experienced foster care and can be used until the student is 28 years old. The DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption can be used at public state universities, public colleges, and school district workforce education programs. The main criteria is that the institution can receive Bright Future Scholarship students. Students eligible for the DCF waiver include those who aged out of care, were adopted from care, placed in relative or non-relative care, students who were placed in permanent guardianship, and students who were in foster care for at least six months and were reunited with their parents.



Students who have experienced homelessness may qualify for the Florida Homeless Tuition exemption. To qualify for the homeless tuition and fee exemption, the student must meet the criteria outlined in Florida Statute 1009.25(1)(f), which includes: A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence, a public or private transitional living program, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

These opportunities were provided to help students overcome barriers to obtaining a postsecondary education or credential. There are knowledgeable college liaisons and points of contact designated at each public institution in the state to assist students with utilizing their waiver and connect them to campus resources. Click [HERE](#) for more information about these tuition and fee exemptions.

Florida's Open Door Grant Program Offers Funding for Students Pursuing Career and Technical Education Credentials

Governor Ron DeSantis has once again included \$35 million in his budget request for Florida's groundbreaking Open Door Grant Program. During the 2021 Florida Legislative Session, House Bill 1507 created section (s.) 1009.895, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to establish the program to support student completion of short-term, high-demand credit and non-credit career and technical education (CTE) programs at career centers and Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

For eligible recipients, funds may be used to cover up to two-thirds of the cost of attendance, as well as the cost of tuition, fees, examination, books, materials and other unmet needs. Students must first apply for FAFSA and all potential other funding sources. After a student is enrolled in an eligible program, the department shall award the grant to the institution for the amount of unmet need for the eligible student. The Florida Department of Education will provide grants to agencies on a first-come, first-serve basis, with no single agency receiving more than one-quarter of funds.

For more information program, which is being promoted throughout Florida by Educate Tomorrow's recently acquired Pathways to CTE Success initiative, can be found [HERE](#).



The Pathways to CTE Success Newsletter is produced each quarter by the Educate Tomorrow staff working on the Pathways to CTE Success initiative. We look forward to providing information about our work and activities to campus and community-based organizations and professionals throughout Florida. To join the Pathways to CTE Success Network or for more information about what you read in this newsletter, contact Dr. Steve J. Rios, head of foster care and homeless services with Educate Tomorrow, Pathways@EducateTomorrow.org.