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June 30, 2017

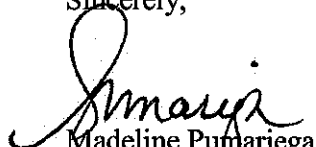
Ms. Traci Leavine
Director of Child Welfare Practices
Florida Department of Children and Families
1317 Winewood Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Leavine:

Pursuant to section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, the attached report on Foster Exemption Student Success provides 2015-16 data on 2,229 Florida College System students with the foster exemption. Over the past three years, postsecondary awards earned by students receiving a foster exemption increased by 62 percent while students earning a "C" or higher also increased.

This year the Florida College System identified an advisor at each institution to work specifically with foster students and have posted their contact information on the System website. Division staff look forward to working with the Florida Department of Children and Families to continue to support the success of students receiving the foster exemption.

Sincerely,


Madeline Pumariega
Chancellor

KB/ac

cc: Courtney M. Smith, Florida Department of Children and Families
Brandie McCabe, Florida Department of Children and Families

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The Florida College System has identified a point of contact for Foster Care Students for each institution which is available on the Florida College System website. These dedicated advisors work with foster care students to assist with enrollment, completion of college financial aid applications and exploration of career opportunities. The Florida College System advisors also assist foster care students by providing the necessary tools for their success in college and beyond, connecting students with academic resources, scholarship opportunities, community resources and other support while pursuing their educational goals. Overall, the goal is to increase access, promote degree completion and prepare foster care students for entry into the workforce.

In 2015-16, the Florida College System (FCS) provided foster exemption waivers to 2,229 students. The three FCS institutions with the highest enrollments for first time foster student exemptions in 2015-16 were Miami Dade College (379), Broward College (338) and Florida State College at Jacksonville (257) as noted in Table 1.

Table 1. 2015-2016 Foster Exemption Student Postsecondary Enrollments

College	Enrolled	College (Continued)	Enrolled
FLORIDA	2,229		
Miami Dade College	379	Pasco-Hernando State College	31
Broward College	338	Northwest Florida State College	30
Florida State College at Jacksonville	257	College of Central Florida	29
Palm Beach State College	256	Santa Fe College	22
Valencia College	125	Lake-Sumter State College	13
Tallahassee Community College	110	Florida Keys Community College	*
Daytona State College	102	Chipola College	*
Indian River State College	101	North Florida Community College	*
Pensacola State College	91	South Florida State College	*
Saint Petersburg College	90	Florida Gateway College	*
Hillsborough Community College	90	Florida SouthWestern State College	0
Seminole State College of Florida	70	Gulf Coast State College	0
Polk State College	41	State College of FL, Manatee-Sarasota	0
Eastern Florida State College	40	Saint Johns River State College	0

Source: Department of Education 2015-2016 Student Database. Notes: "*" indicates information has been masked to protect student privacy (values range between 1 and 9) and "0" indicates no students at the FCS institution received DCF waivers.

Table 2 indicates a 62 percent increase in the postsecondary awards earned by students receiving a foster exemption over the past three years. During the 2015-16 academic year, 182 postsecondary degrees or certificates were awarded to students receiving a waiver. The majority of awards earned (54%) were Associate in Arts (AA) degrees preparing students for transfer to a baccalaureate program, followed by Career and Technical Certificates (16%), College Credit Certificates (16%), Associate in

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Science degrees (8%), Baccalaureate degrees and Applied Technology Diplomas (less than 5%) combined. Over the past three years, students with foster exemptions who earned an Associate in Arts degree increased by 29% and those earning a Career and Technical Certificate increased by 81%.

Table 2. Foster Exemption Student Postsecondary Completions

	Associate in Arts (AA) Degree	Career and Technical Certificate (CTC)	College Credit Certificate (CCC)	Associate in Science (AS) Degree	Applied Technology Diploma (ATD)	Baccalaureate Degree
2015-2016	99	29	29	15	*	*
2014-2015	94	20	19	13	*	*
2013-2014	77	16	*	13	*	*

Source: Department of Education 2015-2016 Student Database.

Notes: In addition, students earned their GED and Adult High School Diplomas. "*" indicates information has been masked to protect students (values range between 1 and 9).

During the 2015-16 academic year, students with foster exemption waivers enrolled in 11,575 courses, with an average GPA of 2.26 and a course success rate (earning a C or higher) of 46.8 percent. Roughly one-third of courses (30.3 percent) resulted in a grade of D, F, or Unsatisfactory (U); slightly more than twenty percent of courses (20.7 percent) resulted in students withdrawing; and the remaining course outcomes include grades of incomplete, progress, no grade, or audit (2.2 percent).

During the fall of 2016, 1,063 previously enrolled students continued their education. Students earning a C or higher over the past three years increased for students with an exemption (1.0 percentage point). With regards to Ds, Fs, and Us, students with the foster exemption remained the same at 30.3 percent over the three years. Other grades, including incompletes, progress, no grades and audits have dropped for students with exemptions by almost half over three years. Table 3 includes student success rates for students with exemptions.

Table 3. Student Success Rates of Students with Foster Care Exemptions over the Past Three Years

	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Average GPA	2.26	2.26	2.29
Course Enrollments	11,575	11,658	11,370
C or Higher	46.8	44.7	46.0
D, F, U	30.3	32.6	30.3
Withdraw	20.7	19.5	19.7
Other	2.2	3.2	4.0

Source: Department of Education 2015-2016 Student Database. Note: C or Higher includes A, B, C, Pass, and Satisfactory. Other includes Incomplete, Progress, No Grade, Audit.

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Financial aid provides additional support for students including resources to purchase textbooks, instructional materials and living expenses. During the 2015-16 year, 973 students with a foster exemption received financial aid. Broward College (157), Miami Dade College (131) and Palm Beach State College (108) had the most students with foster exemptions receiving financial aid as noted in Table 4.

Table 4. 2015-2016 Students with Foster Exemptions Receiving Financial Aid

College	Receiving Financial Aid	College (Continued)	Receiving Financial Aid
Florida	973		
Broward College	157	Pasco-Hernando State College	14
Miami Dade College	131	College of Central Florida	13
Palm Beach State College	108	Chipola College	*
Florida State College Jacksonville	106	Florida Gateway College	*
Saint Petersburg College	78	Florida Keys Community College	*
Tallahassee Community College	57	Lake-Sumter State College	*
Pensacola State College	51	North Florida Community College	*
Hillsborough Community College	45	Northwest Florida State College	*
Indian River State College	45	Santa Fe College	*
Valencia College	42	South Florida State College	*
Eastern Florida State College	29	Florida SouthWestern State College	0
Daytona State College	26	Gulf Coast State College	0
Seminole State College of Florida	23	State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	0
Polk State College	21	Saint Johns River State College	0

Source: Department of Education 2015-2016 Student Database. Notes: "*" indicates information has been masked to protect student privacy (values range between 1 and 9) and "0" indicates no students at the FCS institution received DCF waivers.

This report is provided in accordance with Section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, the FCS shall report annually to the Department of Children and Families specific data, subject to privacy laws, about the children and young adults served by foster care campus coaches, including academic progress, retention rates, financial aid requested and received for students enrolled in the program.