

Annual Report on Florida Department of Children and Families Tuition and Fee Exemption Student Success



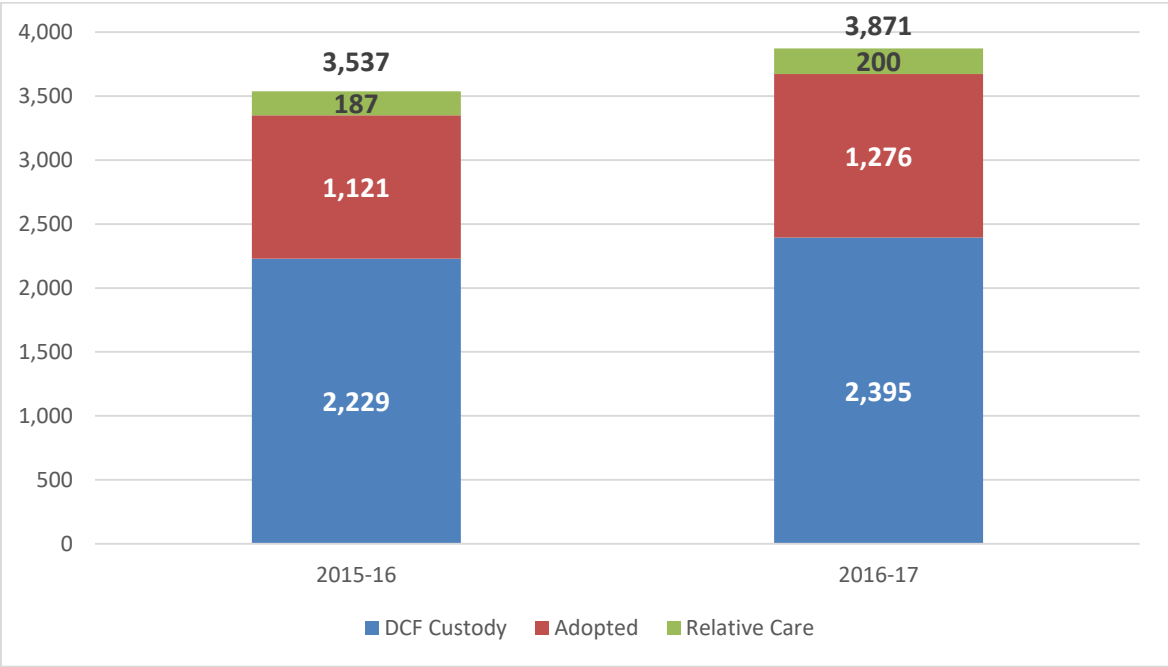
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Background:

The Florida College System (FCS) is committed to supporting former foster youth. All 28 FCS institutions have identified Foster Care Liaisons who are advisors dedicated to assisting former foster youth and students using the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) exemption with enrollment, completion of college financial aid applications and career exploration.¹ Academic advisors provide former foster care youth students with tools for student success in college academics, information on academic and community resources, scholarship opportunities and other support. Collectively, the goal is to increase access, promote degree completion and prepare former foster care youth for transfer into a baccalaureate degree program or entry into the workforce.

In 2016-17, a total of 3,871 students used the DCF exemption in the Florida College System, which is a nine percent increase from 3,537 in 2015-16. Figure 1 provides an overview of the total number of DCF exemptions used by foster care, relative care and adopted students. Foster youth (2,395) in DCF custody made up the largest proportion of students enrolled with the DCF exemption, followed by adopted students (1,277) and relative care students (200).

Figure 1. Total Number of DCF Exemptions Used in the Florida College System by Exemption Category, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.



Source: Bureau of PK-20 Education and Reporting, Florida Department of Education

¹Per Section(S). 1009.25, Florida Statutes, eligible students who were in the custody of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) or court guardianship or adopted are exempt from paying tuition and fees at Florida’s public colleges and universities.

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The DCF exemption is accepted at all 28 Florida College System institutions. The colleges with the highest enrollment of all students using DCF exemptions are Miami Dade College (400), Broward College (377) and Hillsborough Community College (282). An overview of 2016-17 total enrollment of former foster youth, relative care and adopted students using the DCF exemption by college is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. 2016-2017 Total Enrollment of Students Using the DCF Exemption by Institution

College	Total Enrolled	DCF Custody	Adopted	Relative Care
Florida College System	3,871	2,395	1,276	200
Miami Dade College	400	400	-	-
Broward College	377	377	-	-
Hillsborough Community College	282	90	150	42
Valencia College	278	110	134	34
Florida State College at Jacksonville	264	264	-	-
Palm Beach State College	250	250	-	-
St. Petersburg College	206	71	115	20
Santa Fe College	202	35	130	37
Tallahassee Community College	196	96	100	-
Daytona State College	192	100	71	21
Indian River State College	134	134	-	-
Polk State College	131	48	64	19
Seminole State College of Florida	128	68	49	11
Pensacola State College	117	90	27	-
Florida Southwestern State College	102	-	102	-
Pasco-Hernando State College	101	31	70	-
Eastern Florida State College	100	37	63	*
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	93	-	-	-
College of Central Florida	71	24	47	-
St. Johns River State College	51	-	51	-
Gulf Coast State College	44	-	44	-
Northwest Florida State College	39	39	-	-
Lake-Sumter State College	35	20	15	-
Florida Gateway College	16	*	16	*
Chipola College	10	*	*	10
South Florida State College	10	*	*	-
Florida Keys Community College	*	*	*	-
North Florida Community College	*	*	*	-

Source: Department of Education 2016-2017 Student Database. Note: "*" indicates data have been masked to indicate less than 10 students to maintain FERPA compliance. The symbol "-" indicates no students in this category.

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Financial aid provides additional support for students to pay for textbooks, instructional materials and living expenses. Of the 3,871 students with DCF exemptions enrolled in the Florida College System, 1,795 (46 percent) received some form of need-based or merit state or federal financial aid. Table 2 details the percent and number of students that received financial aid by FCS institution.

Table 2. Percent DCF Exempt Students that Received Financial Aid by College and Category, 2016-17.

College	Percent Received Financial Aid	College	Percent Received Financial Aid
South Florida State College	80% (n=10)	Polk State College	49% (n=131)
Chipola College	70% (n=10)	Indian River State College	49% (n=134)
Pensacola State College	65% (n=117)	Florida Southwestern State College	45% (n=102)
Gulf Coast State College	59% (n=44)	Florida State College at Jacksonville	42% (n=264)
College of Central Florida	58% (n=71)	Santa Fe College	42% (n=202)
Hillsborough Community College	57% (n=282)	Seminole State College of Florida	41% (n=128)
Tallahassee Community College	55% (n=196)	Palm Beach State College	38% (n=250)
St. Petersburg College	54% (n=206)	Daytona State College	38% (n=192)
Broward College	54% (n=377)	Valencia College	38% (n=278)
Pasco-Hernando State College	53% (n=101)	Miami Dade College	32% (n=400)
St. Johns River State College	53% (n=51)	Northwest Florida State College	28% (n=39)
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	52% (n=93)	Lake-Sumter State College	26% (n=35)
Eastern Florida State College	50% (n=100)	Florida Keys Community College	*
Florida Gateway College	50% (n=16)	North Florida Community College	*

Source: Bureau of PK-20 Education and Reporting, Florida Department of Education. Note: “*” indicates data have been masked to indicate less than 10 students to maintain FERPA compliance. The symbol “-” indicates no students in category.

During the 2016-17 academic year, students using the DCF exemption enrolled in a total of 19,922 courses and earned an average GPA of 2.38 in comparison to a system average of 2.98. Former foster youth enrolled in 12,290 courses with a 45 percent course success rate (earning a “C” or higher), adopted students made up 6,620 course enrollments with a 52 percent success rate and relative care students enrolled in 1,012 courses and with a 54 percent success rate. Also, looking at DCF exemption student performance, more than one-third of courses (31 percent) resulted in a grade of “D”, “F”, or “Unsatisfactory” (U); there were 18 percent of course enrollments that resulted in withdrawals; and the remaining course outcomes include grades of incomplete, progress, no grade or audit (two percent). Table 3 includes student success rates for students with DCF exemptions by category.

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Table 3. Course Enrollments and Student Success Rates of DCF Exemption Students, 2016-17.

	DCF Exempt Performance	Foster Care	Relative Care	Adopted
Average GPA	2.38	2.31	2.29	2.46
Course Enrollments	19,922	12,290	1,012	6,620
C or Higher	9,602 (48%)	5,637 (45%)	544 (54%)	3,421 (52%)
D, F, U	6,146 (31%)	3,898 (32%)	265 (26%)	1,983 (30%)
Withdrawals	3,677 (18%)	2,406 (20%)	183 (18%)	1,088 (16%)
Other	436 (2%)	349 (3%)	11 (1%)	76 (1%)

Source: Bureau of PK-20 Education and Reporting, Florida Department of Education. Note: "C" or Higher includes "A", "B", "C", Pass, and Satisfactory. "Other" includes Incomplete, Progress, No Grade, and Audit.

During the 2016-17 academic year, 273 postsecondary degrees or certificates were awarded to students with the DCF exemption. Over half of awards earned (58 percent) were Associate in Arts (AA) degrees preparing students for transfer to baccalaureate programs, followed by College Credit Certificates (16 percent), Associate in Science degrees (11 percent), Career and Technical Certificates (10 percent Baccalaureate degrees and Applied Technology Diplomas (less than one percent combined).

Table 4. Total Number of Program Completions of Exempt Foster Care, Relative Care and Adopted Students, 2016-17.

	Overall Total	Associate in Arts (AA)	Career and Technical Certificate (CTC)	College Credit Certificate (CCC)	Associate in Science (AS)	Applied Technology Diploma (ATD)	Bachelor in Applied Science
2016-17	273	159	29	44	31	*	*

Source: Bureau of PK-20 Education and Reporting. Note: In addition, students earned their GED and Adult High School Diplomas. Note: "*" indicates data have been masked to indicate less than 10 students to maintain FERPA compliance.

This report is provided in accordance with S. 409.1452, F.S., that specifies 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.