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# TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN – FAQ'S

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## 1. WHO ARE THE STUDENTS WHO ARE SERVED BY TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN?

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- Our population is comprised of 500 middle and high school students who attend 35 of the Palm Beach County schools.
- They must meet low income and at-risk guidelines.
- They are chosen by interview committees that represent the local community.
- They are required to have a 2.3 GPA or higher; remain drug-free & crime-free.
- They sign a contract that requires both student and family members to make a long-term commitment.
- Finally, each student is matched with both a mentor and a college readiness coach to begin their journey. Students must meet weekly with their mentor during the school year in order to successfully comply with program requirements.
- A probation process is in place to monitor each student's academic standing, behavior and mentor contacts/meetings.

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## 2. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FL PREPAID SCHOLARSHIP?

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- This is a 2-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 the 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. Student must complete the traditional application process.

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## 3. WHAT IS THE JOB OF A COLLEGE READINESS COACH?

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- 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.
- 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 & events.

#### 4. WHAT OTHER FUNDING SOURCES EXIST FOR TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN STUDENTS?

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- The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA** as it is called, 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, & 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 services hours.
- The Community Foundation of Palm Beach County offers over 100 scholarship opportunities for Palm Beach County students.
- To maintain any scholarship, a student must remain in good academic standing throughout their university/college program of study.

#### 5. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGE RETENTION COACH?

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- Take Stock in Children recognizes the gap between our high school graduation rate and college completion rate. Our goal is to close that gap by providing our college students with the support of a College Retention Coach.
- To monitor the progress of Take Stock in Children high school graduates once they enter the post-secondary setting.
- To develop collaborative relationships with universities/colleges where Take Stock in Children graduates attend.
- To provide interventions for Take Stock in Children university/college students who are in need, as warranted.
- To coordinate with the Take Stock in Children State Office Alumni Department.

#### 6. WHAT IS OUR STUDENT SUCCESS RATE?

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- 98% – High School Graduation Rate
- 96% – College Enrollment Rate
- 59% – College Completion Rate

**FYI:** Take Stock in Children is celebrating 20 years of changing lives for over 1800 students throughout Palm Beach County.

***“College Readiness is not the belief that every student will go to college. It is the idea that every student deserves the opportunity to be educated in a way that prepares him or her for college.”***

Lopez, 2009

For Further Information on Take Stock in Children Palm Beach, please visit our website at:  
[www.takestockpalmbeach.org](http://www.takestockpalmbeach.org)

Or

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