

Peer Power: The Untapped Source to Increase College Access

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Welcome!



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Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media

Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
@BRACEcadets
#FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording



Guest Presenter

Ralph Aiello, Director of
School Counseling &
BRACE Advisement
Broward County Public Schools



Guest Presenter

Yvonne Green

College & Career Specialist

Broward County Public Schools



Guest Presenter

Carol Lopez, Supervisor of
College & Career Readiness,
School Counseling &
BRACE Advisement
Broward County Public Schools



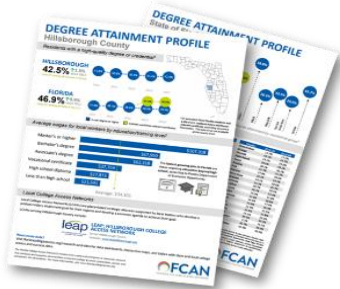
Our mission:

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

Our vision:

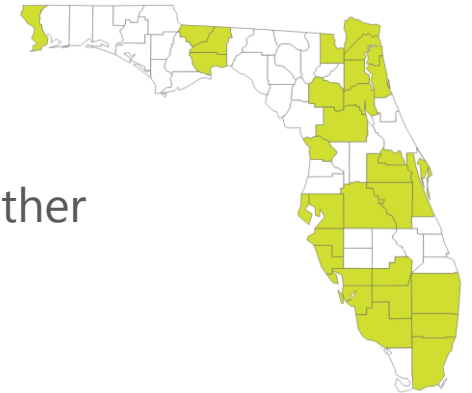
A Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

FCAN's Work



Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs represent 82% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



**COLLEGE
READY
FLORIDA**

Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.

7 Conditions for Success

Opportunity for everyone: To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

Clear information and guidance: Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

Affordable: Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

Multiple pathways to success: Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

Lifelong learning: No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

Effective use of data: Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

Community collaboration: When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

Introduction

Students need more guidance and support

After meeting 1-on-1 with a counselor to discuss college or financial aid:

3x

The chances of a student going to college *triples*

7x

They are *seven times* more likely to apply for financial aid

Source: *How Can High School Counseling Shape Students' Postsecondary Attendance? Exploring the Relationship between the High School Counseling Context and Students' Subsequent Postsecondary Enrollment*, National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)

Students need more guidance and support

485:1

Florida's student to counselor ratio

482:1

National student to counselor ratio

250:1

Recommended ratio

Source: *State-By-State Student-to-Counselor Ratio Report: 10-Year Trends*
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) & American School Counselor Association (ASCA), 2014-2015

POLL: What could you accomplish if you had more resources to support student postsecondary plans?



School Counseling & BRACE

Peer Power: The Untapped Source to Increase Postsecondary Access & Success

BRACE Cadets: The Opportunity

- Broward Schools Overview
- Challenges
- Opportunity
- Vision





267,970 Students
2nd in State; 6th in Nation
241 Schools, incl. 32 High



175,404 Students



91,533 Students



State Accountability

English Language Arts (FSA)	Mathematics (FSA, EOCs)	Science (NGSSS, EOC)	Social Studies (EOCs)	Graduation Rate	Acceleration Success
Achievement (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	4-year Graduation Rate (0% to 100%)	High School (AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment or
Learning Gains (0% to 100%)	Learning Gains (0% to 100%)				Industry Certification) (0% to 100%)
Learning Gains of the Lowest 25% (0% to 100%)	Learning Gains of the Lowest 25% (0% to 100%)				Middle School EOCs or Industry Certifications) (0% to 100%)



BROWARD County Public Schools
Established 1915

2024 Strategic Plan

OUR VISION: Educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

OUR MISSION: Educating all students to reach their highest potential.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Student Focus
- Teaching Excellence
- Accountability
- Respect
- Safety

OUR GOALS:
High-Quality Instruction | Safe & Supportive Environment | Effective Communication

OUR CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES:

- Support Services for All**
 - Student, Employee, & Supplier Diversity
 - Prevention, Intervention, & Assistance
 - Social-Emotional Learning
- Student Experience**
 - Achievement & Equity
 - College, Career, & Life Readiness (PreK-Adult)
 - Personalized Pathways
 - Enrollment Optimization
- Retain, Develop, & Recruit**
 - Employee Retention & Recruitment
 - Professional Learning for All
 - Organizational Structure & Aligned Funding
- Let's Connect**
 - Public Relations, Partnerships, & Legislation
 - Internal Communication
 - Marketing
 - Customer Service
- Our Data, Our Tools**
 - Data Governance & Use
 - Tool Development, Implementation, & Use
- Refresh, Redesign, & Reduce Risk**
 - Operational & Process Improvement
 - Facilities & Asset Management
 - Safety, Security, & Risk Mitigation

SIM Published by the Office of Strategic Initiative Management (SIM).
Access the full 2024 Strategic Plan at www.browardschools.com/strategicplan.

BCPS Vision:
Educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.



Student Demographics

- FRL 176,629 65.9%
- Hispanic 95,464 35.6%
- ELL 31,766 11.9%
- IEP 37,250 13.9%
- FAFSA 43.6%
- SAT 93%



Investments

- 475 Counselors PK-12
- 500:1 Ratio
- 55% “Other Duties”
- BRACE Advisors
- Millage Referendum
- SAT Day
- Naviance
- Adulting 101
- Money Matters
- LCAN – Broward Bridge 2 Life (B2L)
- College Fairs
- College & Career Signing Day
- College & Career Application Day
- Text, Email, Phone, Social Media



Vision



- Build a robust college and career going culture
- Enroll and complete post-secondary education
- Make students part of the "army"
- Use data to inform and measure success



The Inspiration

- Students are 2nd most powerful influencer on peers
- Leverage the strength of peer influence for good
- PeerForward
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation “To & Through Challenge” Grant



THE DATA THAT MATTER AND THE PLANS THAT WORK:

New Districtwide Approaches to
Student Success Beyond High School



BRACE Cadets

- High school students who serve as mentors to their peers, helping them take action to prepare for college, career, and life after graduation.
- Cadets design and implement projects at their schools.



Social Media Cadets

Twitter @bracecadets

<https://twitter.com/bracecadets>

Instagram @bracecadets

<https://www.instagram.com/bracecadets/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bracecadets/>



Five Priorities

- Naviance
- College Readiness
- Career Readiness
- Financial aid – FAFSA, Bright Futures, Scholarships
- Alternatives to 4-year colleges



Application & Selection Process

- Application & Screening
- Interview
- Naviance experience
 - Common App a/c;
 - Self-assessments
- Draft Project Plan
- Signed Agreement



Expectations



- Mandatory Training (4+ Days)
- Submit 2 Project Plans
- Implement Approved Projects
- Submit 2 Project Reports
- Focus on Priorities
- Have fun
- \$500 stipend



BRACE Cadet Projects

- Self-assessments
- Career Inventories
- College Admissions
 - Match
 - Selection
 - Application (Common App a/c)
- College & Career Fairs
- Technical Colleges Awareness
- High School Course Planning And Dual Enrollment
- SAT Workshops
- FAFSA Education and Application Events
- Scholarship
 - Boot Camps
 - Challenges
 - Application Drives
 - Essay Support





"I chose some students [in my project] to be college readiness coaches to give one-on-one help to students ... by the time this is completed, my list of students affected will be around 50."

*Sarah L.
11th Grade BRACE Cadet, C1 & 2*



Visionary Leaders

- Cadets advocated to fund Naviance at a School Board meeting
- Cadets with Superintendent Robert Runcie



Influencers

- Bring authentic student voice to conversations about education and equity in education
- Cadets leading the inauguration of B2L



Game-Changers

- Community Events
- Supporting B2L
Black History Month
FAFSA Drive



**“I accomplish a lot more using BRACE Cadets,
than I do on my own.” *BRACE Advisor***



Program Benefits

- College & Career Going Culture
- Increased Capacity For District
- Leverage Youth Leadership
- More Students Taking Action
- Create New Energy & Buzz
- Personal Transformation In Students



Cohort 1 Impact Using NCAN Common Metrics



Financial Aid Indicators

FAFSA

- 213 Completed
- 50 FSAID created
- 209 FAFSA Readiness

Scholarship Applications

- 71 Bright Futures
- 345 Scholarship
- 346 Scholarship Readiness



Admissions Indicators

The screenshot shows the Common Application website. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Us", "& Universities", "Questions", "Forms", "Resources", and "Us". The main content area features the text "THE COMMON APPLICATION For Undergraduate College Admission". Below this, there are three columns: "NEWS" with a date "01/29/2009" and a record number, "APPLY!" with a login form (User Name, Password, and a Login button), and "FEATURED" with the Clark University logo and tagline "CHALLENGE CONVENTION CHANGE OUR WORLD™".

Completed Applications

- 72 Applied to College
- 145 College Lists
- 50 Common App a/c
- 299 College Readiness



Academic & Testing Indicators

AP, dual enrollment,
GPA, on-time
graduation

- 3 students signed up for dual enrollment

Students Taking
SAT & ACT

- 2 students took SAT



Indicators Using BCPS Metrics

Naviance Exploration

- 376 Self-assessments
- 139 Careers Searches

Careers & Alternatives

- 41 Military, CTE

Personal Plan

- 95 Plans Created



Money Talks

Sources

- Title IV Grant
- To & Through Grant
- In-kind Support
 - Meals
 - Space,
 - Trainers/speakers

Expenses

- Student Stipends
- Trainer Stipends
- Dedicated Staff
- Uniforms
- Swag & Incentives



Success Keys – District Level

- Articulate possibilities, *not problems*
- Engage decision-makers & influencers early
- Allocate staff
- Create a high value brand
- Budget
- Share success not setbacks



Success Keys - Students

- Clear vision
- Clear expectations
- Meaningful incentives
- Options & flexibility
- Quality training
- Empower
- 200% support & encouragement
- Altruism & impact



60 BRACE Cadets X 4 Months = 2,452 Lives Changed

Never underestimate the power of a small group of
committed
[students] to change their [school].



POLL: How many students can you identify who would love to be a student influencer?

Questions?



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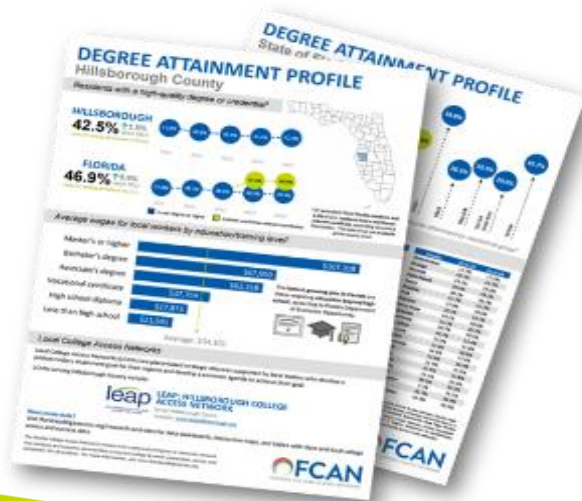
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Learn More:

Register for upcoming webinars:

6/23 1-2 pm: **Unite Miami: Wraparound support for youth in foster care or experiencing homelessness**



For webinars, policy briefs, and promising practices, subscribe at:

FloridaCollegeAccess.org/subscribe

Conclusion



Social Media

- @Brace Cadets

