2025 ANNUAL Report

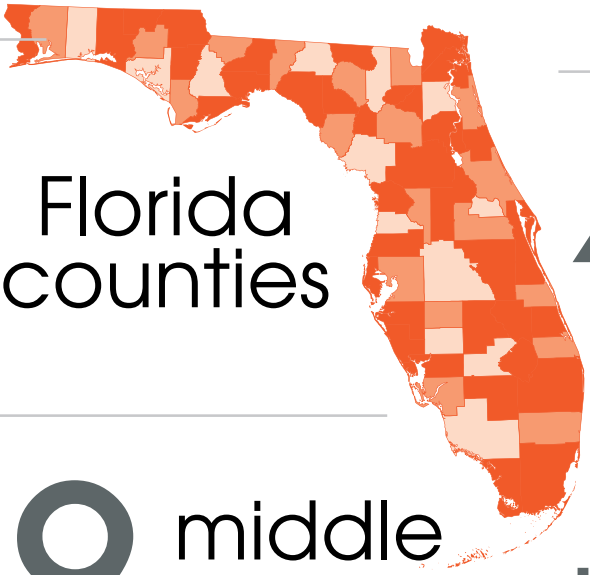
Take Stock in Children: The Future is Built Here

Take Stock in Children®

Our Impact Across Florida

providing scholarships, mentors, and hope
to achieve success in college, career, and life

Take Stock in Children®

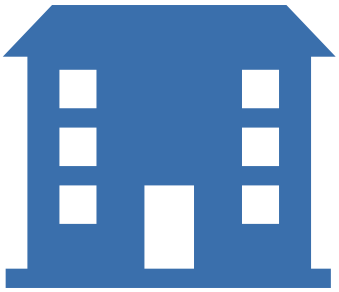


67 Florida counties

45 local programs

839 middle & high schools

$317M in scholarships



40 colleges & universities

8,850 mentors

46,164 students since 1995

For more information, please visit takestockinchildren.org

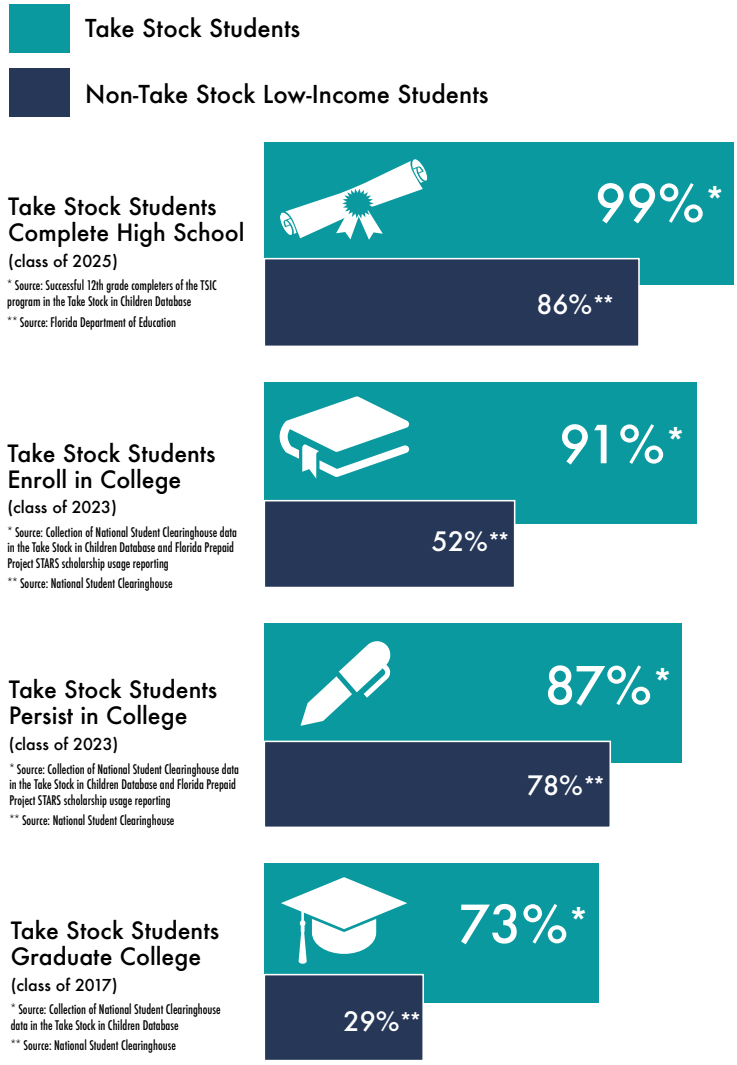
Take Stock in Children

Take Stock in Children's mission is to break the cycle of poverty through education. Founded in 1995 as a Florida nonprofit organization by business and community leaders and built as a public-private partnership to break down barriers to opportunity and instill hope in economically disadvantaged youth, Take Stock in Children has served more than 46,000 low-income, at-risk students throughout Florida. For more than 30 years, the Take Stock in Children program's innovative multi-year model has helped children most often overlooked and underserved through early intervention, selecting students between the 6th and 9th grades to enroll in the program. This program model benefits students by providing support services through a volunteer mentor, a college readiness coach, and college readiness workshops while mitigating financial barriers to higher education by providing college scholarships. Upon enrollment in the Take Stock in Children program, students and parents/guardians sign contracts agreeing that the student will remain drug- and crime-free, maintain good grades and behavior, and graduate high school. Graduates of the Take Stock in Children program earn a Florida Prepaid College Foundation Project STARS scholarship to alleviate the cost of college and are automatically enrolled in the Take Stock in College and Career program, where student support continues until students reach degree attainment/career certification. By setting high expectations for their academic future, Take Stock in Children helps students prepare for postsecondary success.

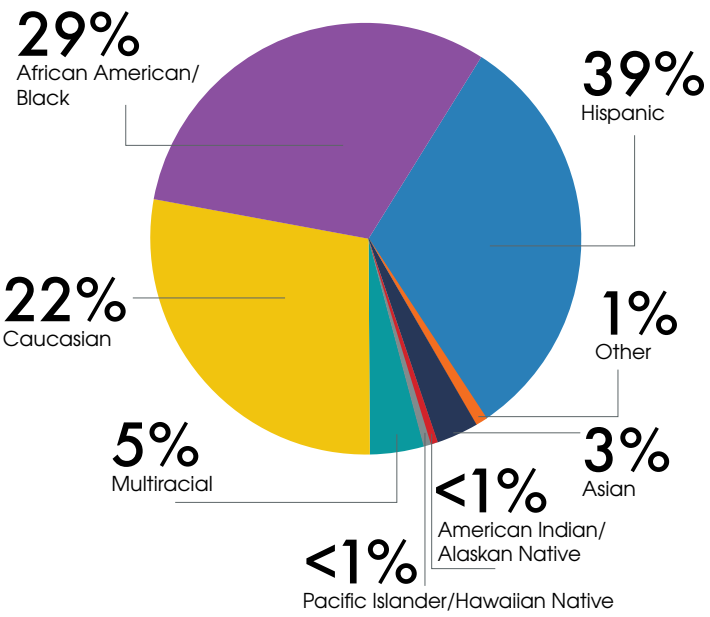
Take Stock in College and Career

The Take Stock in College and Career program was launched in 2018 to support over 7,000 Take Stock in Children scholarship recipients attending Florida's public colleges, universities, and technical colleges annually. The Take Stock in College and Career program does not duplicate the services offered on college and university campuses; rather, it develops partnerships that connect Take Stock scholars to these critical services, including academic support, financial aid, and career preparation. The holistic support offered by the Take Stock in College and Career program helps scholars, who are often first-generation college students, overcome academic and social barriers that can derail degree attainment/career certification.

Our Results



Student Demographics



Data Source: Take Stock in Children Database

For more information, please visit takestockinchildren.org

Leveraging Technology to Support Student Success

At Take Stock, students are our number one priority. With student success as our focus, we harness the power of technology to enhance our efficiency and help our teams to proactively provide direct support to students through our multi-year service model. This highly effective technology ecosystem supports our teams in achieving better outcomes for our students across our programs by creating efficiencies, supporting better tracking, and allowing our coaches to provide more tailored support.

For the Take Stock in Children program, our caring volunteer mentors leverage the Take Stock App to safely communicate with their students through in-app texting and video chat to schedule their meetings and to provide mentoring virtually when in-person mentoring is not an option. They also log their sessions on the Take Stock App to better manage and track mentoring sessions on the go.

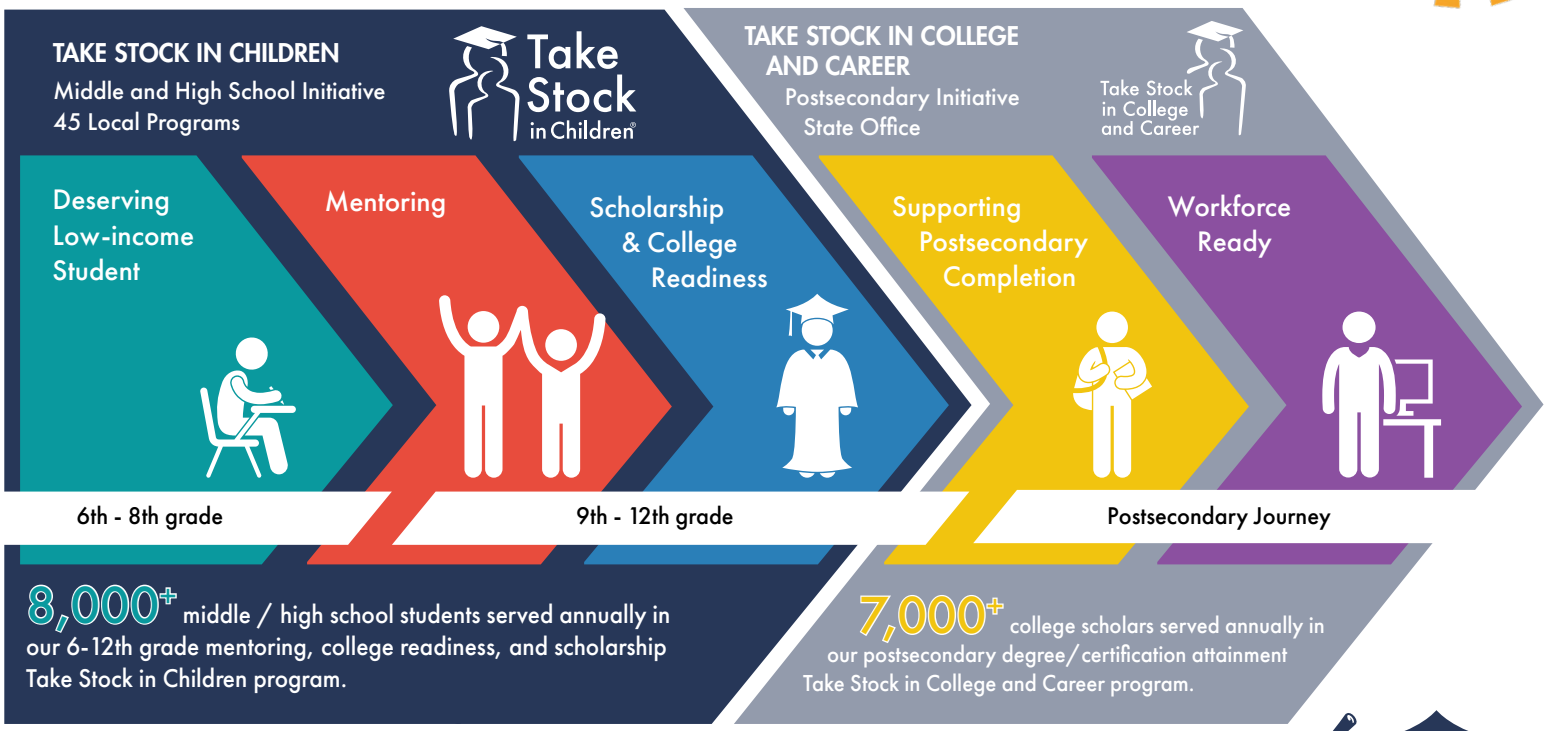
Star, the AI chatbot, provides 24/7 access to resources and allows our staff to provide specific and relevant support for students and parents/guardians. These platforms serve as enhancements to services, ensuring seamless support on the path to high school graduation.

Once students enter the Take Stock in College and Career Program, they transition to the specialized AI chatbot, Sunny. With the help of Sunny, college completion coaches focus on critical postsecondary elements like retention, financial aid compliance, and career planning. Sunny saves time and allows coaches to proactively engage with students to prevent small problems from becoming big challenges that could derail college completion.

While these technologies dramatically enhance our efficiency and reach, they are ultimately tools; it is the expertise and commitment of our people, the coaches, staff, and volunteer mentors, that remain our core strength, ensuring strong student outcomes and our impressive 73% postsecondary completion rate.

Service Model - Continuum of Support

Take Stock achieves success through an innovative multi-year service model of mentorship, accountability, a college scholarship, and college success.



15,000+ students served annually across the Take Stock in Children organization and network.

Students can receive up to 12 years of services through the continuum of support.

Accountability

- Students and parents/guardians sign performance contract
- Students remain crime- and drug-free
- Students agree to get good grades and graduate high school

Dreams Realized

The impact of Take Stock in Children is often measured not just in one life, but across an entire family. For the Grullon Family, that blessing was felt three times over, as all three siblings, Yasmin, Leonardo, and Nathalie are graduates of the Take Stock in Children program and recipients of Take Stock scholarships. "To know that my parents didn't have to carry the burden of college for three kids—it wasn't just support for us, it was peace of mind for them," Yasmin shares. This transformative support truly became the foundation upon which their collective family dreams were realized.

Yasmin's brother, Leonardo, first pursued his athletic dream, fueled by his scholarship to play college baseball, a path that led him to be drafted by the Detroit Tigers and reach the AA League. When injury closed that chapter, his resilience shone through. "The scholarship didn't just fund a degree; it gave me a strong Plan B when my dream changed," Leonardo reflects. He skillfully pivoted, earning his Nursing degree from St. Petersburg College, and now serves as a compassionate travel ICU nurse across Florida.

Their sister, Nathalie, embraced her calling in service, first earning her bachelor's in education from the University of West Florida, and then advancing her expertise with a master's in speech pathology from Nova Southeastern University. Today, she is a dedicated exceptional student education specialist, enriching the lives of children in Tampa, FL.

As for Yasmin, she set a commanding trajectory for success early on, graduating from Hillsborough High School in 2006 with an International Baccalaureate degree and a remarkable 6.0 GPA. Her path led her to the University of Central Florida for her bachelor's in hospitality management, culminating in an MBA from the University of South Florida. This educational journey, made possible by Take Stock, paved the way to her dream career in the financial sector at GTE Financial. She proudly declares, "I truly love what I do every day."

The family's gratitude is profound. The parents, in particular, remain beyond appreciative of the opportunities, mentorship, and security that Take Stock in Children offered. Take Stock provided a platform for upward mobility, resulting in the launch of three successful careers and lasting generational impact. "Watching each of our children walk across that graduation stage over the years has been the greatest joy of our lives. It was Take Stock that opened those doors, one after the other, and we couldn't be more grateful."

Student Testimonials

I owe alot of my success to Take Stock in Children. Without the help and encouragement from Take Stock who knows if my dream of flying jets one day would have come true. After finishing my degree in Aerospace Engineering, I began my career in the Air Force. Currently, I am a Captain in the US Airforce. Take Stock is a great program and I am very thankful for all it did for me.

-Bobby, Class of 2006

Growing up, my parents were always working in agriculture, and college honestly felt super far away, like a different world. It was hard being the first in my family to try for a Bachelor's degree, and there were times that I wanted to give up. But my Take Stock mentor, teachers, and coaches made sure I didn't. They cheered me on, and my parents were always there, no matter what. Getting this degree is a huge deal, not just for me, but for my whole family. It shows that big dreams can come true.

-Lucero, Class of 2010

My mother never made it past middle school, but she made it clear that she wanted her children to become successful. And that's exactly what I wanted for myself. I've always played school with my younger siblings, with me being the teacher—of course! My mind was set on becoming a teacher, especially after having the best high school math teacher any student could ask for. When I was given this scholarship, I was crying with tears of joy because I knew my mother, who was single and raising all us kids on her own, would not have been able to pay for my college expenses.

-Tracy, Class of 2000

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