We are changing the odds for foster youth.

Our goal is 100 Academies in the next 10 years.

Please join our efforts to help foster youth thrive:

**Connect us with a University**: If you are an alum, supporter, or neighbor of a university, help us connect with the university’s top leadership to discuss establishing an Academy.

**Sponsor an Academy**: Donate to First Star to support a current or future Academy that will transform the future of local foster youth.

**Become a Mentor**: Our youth benefit from the mentorship of many local professionals who encourage them to succeed in high school and enroll in higher education.

100% of First Star youth graduate high school
(compared to 50% nationally)

90% enter higher education
(compared to 12% nationally with no intervention)

First Star Foster Youth Academies

Current Academies:

UCLA
George Washington University (DC)
University of Connecticut
University of Central Florida
University of Rhode Island
Rowan University (NJ)
Loyola University, Chicago

For more information, contact Paige Chan: paige.chan@firststar.org

First Star is a registered 501(c)(3) charity established in 1999. We improve outcomes for our country’s 500,000 foster youth through the combination of Academic education programs, policy advocacy, research and litigation.

www.firststar.org
There are **500,000** foster youth in the United States. Once removed from their parents’ care because of abuse or neglect, our society assumes legal responsibility to ensure that all foster youth have the supports needed to successfully transition to adulthood. Unfortunately, these youth experience an average of 8 home and school changes while in foster care. **Only half graduate high school and less than three percent earn a college degree.** Over 20,000 youth age out of foster care each year completely unprepared for independence. Instead, within two years of aging out of foster care, **more than half are homeless, incarcerated, or on welfare.**

First Star Foster Youth Academies
First Star partners with universities throughout the country to make a long-term investment in foster youth and change the course of their lives, from abuse and neglect to academic achievement and self-sufficiency. Each Foster Youth Academy is a four-year program for high school foster youth that shows them they belong on a college campus, and helps them get there. Youth live on an elite college campus each summer throughout high school, and return 1-2 days each month during the school year. The university becomes a second home that inspires and enables them.

To learn more about the program and hear from our students visit: [www.firststar.org](http://www.firststar.org)

First Star Removes Barriers to Academic Success
We relentlessly keep 100% of our students on track for high school graduation by enforcing their education rights as foster youth, monitoring their education progress during the school year, arranging tutoring, and enrolling them in high school credit recovery programs. We prepare youth for higher education by providing college and financial aid counseling, arranging college tours, and providing them with PSAT/ SAT/ACT prep.

First Star Equips Youth with the Life Skills Needed for Adulthood
We prepare youth to successfully transition from foster care into adulthood. We set up internships, teach them financial literacy, connect them to housing resources, and teach them to identify and maintain healthy relationships.

First Star Trains Youth to Advocate for Themselves and Others
Our youth are trained on their rights as foster youth, and are taught public speaking, filmmaking, and writing skills so that they can advocate for themselves and other foster youth.

First Star is Family
Our youth are supported by a team of committed adults, including a full time staff and peer mentors who are former foster youth attending the host university. We step in and up for all our youth, regardless of their need. They and we bond and become a symbiotic, very real second family.