

FIRST STAR NATIONAL STEAM ACADEMY



Led by Technology, Grounded in Social Justice

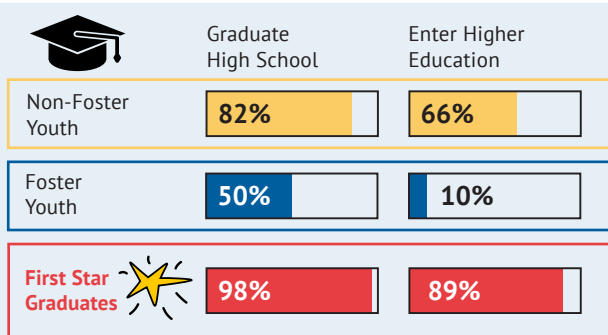
Who We Are

First Star works to uplift communities and create change by building strong pathways for hundreds of high-school age foster youth to post-secondary education, through our First Star Academy Program.

What We Do

The First Star Academy Program is a comprehensive four-year college access program for youth in foster care. Focusing on academics, life skills, caregiver and mentor engagement, the First Star Academies have significantly improved the outcomes of participating youth across the country.

How Our First Star Scholars Compare



Why First Star? Why Now?

- First Star acknowledges its responsibility to uplift foster youth and expand their understanding of the STEAM careers and the vital role they play in the 21st Century
- The Covid-19 crisis has motivated First Star to be a leader in transforming education, work, and social environments into technologically savvy spaces that allow for continuous growth, development, and connection
- Pervasive systemic racism against people of color has led to significant education and wealth gaps, health disparities, higher incidences of police brutality/death, incarceration, homelessness, indigence, and higher incidences of child welfare placements. **These effects are amplified in the foster care system.**
- First Star is committed to supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and aims to provide validation through representation as well as impactful opportunities centered on technology for our POC foster youth.

What is the First Star National STEAM Academy?

The **First Star National STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Academy** will expand our programming to include a national learning platform led by technology and grounded in social justice.

First Star will be building the virtual **First Star National STEAM Academy** through partnerships with universities throughout the country in addition to individuals and companies that will assist in developing age-appropriate, culturally responsive content.

The **First Star National STEAM Academy** aims to increase teenage foster youth engagement in STEAM careers with a series of interactive “Tech Talks” led by positive STEAM professionals, as well as the expansion of technology in driving learning opportunities. Our objective is to guide more foster youth towards exciting STEAM careers with increased earning potential to help break the cycle of poverty and provide a greater opportunity to contribute to their community.

The First Star National STEAM Academy Goals & Priorities



- Bring high-intervention education program to more foster youth – both First Star scholars and other foster youth. Our goal is to reach 400 foster youth per session
- Introduce foster teens to real people who are working in STEAM fields designing tech, developing apps, and running companies that are changing the way we live and powering our digital world
- Shift thinking from shrinking to growing job fields, increasing earning potential, and job security
- Uplift foster youth to become leaders of change in their communities, their states and their government

How Can You Get Involved with the First Star National STEAM Academy?

We Want to Hear from YOU!

- Are you able to join us as a sponsor of the First Star National STEAM Academy?
- Are you a STEAM professional open to hosting one of our First Star STEAM Academy Tech Talks?
- Do you know a student who would be interested in joining the First Star National STEAM Academy?

Reach out to First Star today at: STEAMacademy@firststar.org

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