First Star’s Academies are a long-term college-prep program for high school foster youth. We keep our scholars on track for high school graduation and prepare them for higher education and adulthood by providing specialized programming that addresses the academics, life skills, and adult supports unique to students in foster care.

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The Academy Model

**ACADEMY PROGRAMMING INCLUDES...**

**ACADEMY PROGRAM**
4 year college prep. program for foster youth focused on academics and life skills.

**STEAM ACADEMY**
Monthly virtual sessions and access to online courses that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

**ALUMNI PROGRAM**
Offered to scholars who graduate the Academy as a resource during their transition to adulthood.

**SUMMER ACADEMY**
Intensive 3-4 week residential enrichment program on a university campus.

**VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT**
Weekly mentoring and tutoring sessions, as well as an open environment to connect and build community through virtual hangouts.

**CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT**
Seminars and workshops that provide tools to caregivers to become advocates for their youth.

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First Star KVC, West Virginia Academy, and the NASA ERC program are collaborating to develop and implement an immersive summer program for First Star scholars at Fairmont State University!

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FUTURE PLANS & PARTNERS

We are all ecstatic about the unique collaboration with NASA’s Education Resource Center and Destination SPACE Inc., at Fairmont State University!

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FS ACADEMY DIRECTOR
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NASA IV&V ERC
PROGRAM MANAGER,
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EMAIL
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Instagram Handle:
@firststaracademies
Website:
www.firststar.org
Beating the Odds

FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS

98% of scholars who engage in the Academy for at least 2 years, graduate from high school and 91% enroll in higher education compared to just 50% of foster youth who graduate high school and only 10% who pursue higher education nationwide.

WHAT SCHOLARS ARE SAYING ABOUT FIRST STAR’S IMPACT

- 94% Believe attending college is possible for them
- 89% Say getting good grades is important to them
- 87% Feel like they have a plan for the future
- 76% Feel like they are stronger because of their experience in foster care
- 70% Feel like First Star has helped them DREAM BIGGER!

FIRST STAR KVC WEST VIRGINIA ACADEMY DATA

FOSTER PLACEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster Home</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunified with Biological Parents</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship Care</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indep. Living / Emanc.</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GENDER IDENTIFICATION

42% ♂ : 58% ♀

GRADE LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Grade</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Grade</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Grade</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RACE/ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Latino/a</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer. Indian</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Racial Pacific Is</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS OF 2021

Graduated from High school | 100%

Post. Secondary Education | 100%

- University | 33%
- Community College | 67%
- Vocational School | 8%

Non-Post Secondary | 0%
- Enlistment in Military | .
- Full-Time Employment | .
- Non-High School Graduates | 0%
- Enlistment in Military | .
- Full Time Employment | .
- GED | .

More on the NASA ERC Program at Fairmont State University.

The summer STEM camp will support mindful growth and development of youth in grades 9-12. During the time they spend on Fairmont State’s campus they will get to experience and discover a wide range of STEM topics through hands-on activities. They will also experience a college campus setting, which will provide them with a direct connection to the possibility of higher education.

Throughout the year, scholars will be supported through mentoring opportunities in STEM through our First Network ambassadors, our NASA Education Resource Center program, the First Star STEAM Virtual Academy and monthly Saturday programing through the First Star KVC Academy.

Data above is representative of both the national organization and the First Star KVC West Virginia. Collected data was summited by the Academy Director using the First Star Data Dashboard and by scholars through an anonymous Survey developed by Tiller Inc.