2023 Graduating Class Report

**SENIOR DATA**

**97% of First Star seniors graduated from high school in the spring**

**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION TRACK**

Of the scholars who graduated in June of 2023, 92% enrolled in post-secondary education. Post-secondary education includes universities and colleges, as well as trade and vocational schools.

- 2-Year College: 31.1%
- 4-Year College: 65.6%
- Vocational: 3.3%
- Military: 28.6%
- Employment: 71.4%

**EMPLOYMENT OR MILITARY TRACK**

Of the scholars who graduated in June of 2023 who did not enroll in higher education, the majority entered the workforce.

First Star uses a long-term case management system to support the work First Star does to achieve the results listed, as well as supports scholars in enrolling into the Alumni program for additional supports after they graduate.

**First Star vs National Outcomes**

- **97%** graduated from high school in June 2023 compared to 50% of youth in care nationwide
- **92%** are pursuing higher education compared to 10% of youth in care nationwide
- **67%** are pursuing higher education by enrolling in four year colleges

Source: National Foster Youth Institute, Higher Education for Foster Youth, https://nfyi.org/issues/higher-education/
Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.
First Star compares scholar graduation data annually to measure progress and identify areas of growth to focus on during the following school year.

**2022 & 2023 COMPARISON DATA**

First Star compares scholar graduation data annually to measure progress and identify areas of growth to focus on during the following school year.

**2021-2022**

- HS Grad.: 63%
- Post Sec. Educ.: 30%
- 4-Year College: 13%
- 2-Year College: 6%
- Vocational: 0%

**2022-2023**

- HS Grad.: 98%
- Post Sec. Educ.: 75%
- 4-Year College: 65%
- 2-Year College: 35%
- Vocational: 0%

**KEY DATA POINTS**

- 1% increase in post-secondary education enrollment
- 3% increase in vocational school enrollment
- 3% decrease in two-year college enrollment

**MAJOR TAKEAWAYS**

- Maintained a high school graduation rate of 97% for two years straight for the first time since COVID
- 30% of graduating First Star scholars are attending their Academy’s host university in the fall of 2023, including Arizona State University, California State University, Sacramento, Illinois State University, Kent State University, Rowan University, University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Miami
- 11% increase in enrollment for graduating First Star scholars into the First Star Alumni Program

**THE FIRST STAR ALUMNI PROGRAM**

The First Star Alumni Program’s goal is to remain connected with Alumni to ensure they have access to resources and the First Star network as they transition into adulthood, careers, and advanced education.

- 63% of the 2023 graduating class enrolled in the Alumni Program
- The 2023 Alumni Awards Show celebrated our largest graduating senior class and an additional 30 Alumni during our annual community celebration in June 2023