

2026 Graduating Class Report



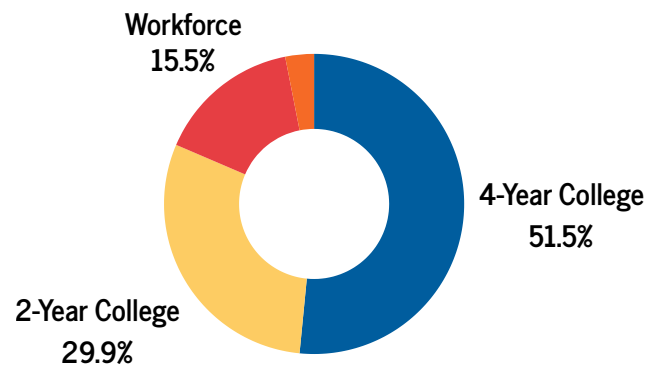
97% of First Star Seniors Graduated from High School

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS

Of the 97% of scholars who graduated from high school in June of 2026, **82% enrolled in post-secondary education**. Post-secondary education includes 4-year colleges and universities, 2-year community colleges, as well as trade and vocational school pathways. **3%** of our scholars are pursuing credit recovery pathways to complete their high school education requirements, in hopes of pursuing post-secondary pathways.

WORKFORCE PATHWAYS

Of the **97%** of scholars who graduated in June of 2026, **15% joined the workforce**, which includes full- and part-time employment, skilled trades, apprenticeships, and the military. This reflects a growing shift toward workforce pathways, with more students intentionally seeking immediate career opportunities and hands-on training as an alternative to traditional higher education.



First Star uses a long-term case management system to achieve the outcomes listed above while supporting scholars' transition into the Alumni Program, where they continue to receive guidance and resources after high school graduation.

Leading the Way: First Star Scholars Compared to National Outcomes

97%

graduated from high school in June 2026 compared to 50% of youth in care nationwide

82%

are pursuing higher education compared to 10% of youth in care nationwide

80%

continue engaging with the First Star Network via the Alumni Program

Source: National Foster Youth Institute, Higher Education for Foster Youth and 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
alumni

First Star Alumni Program

The First Star Alumni Program is designed to maintain strong connections with alumni, ensuring they have access to essential resources and the First Star network as they transition into adulthood, careers, and higher education.

Contact Jennyann Gallo to learn more at jennyann.gallo@firststar.org

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