Facilitating Long-term Improvements in Graduation and Higher Education for Tomorrow (FLIGHT)

Large numbers of qualified students do not apply to and enroll in college. Yet, earning a college degree is one of the primary pathways for economic success and is increasingly required for good jobs and high wages.1 A number of programs and practices aim to improve college readiness and enrollment, including Take Stock in Children’s® (TSIC’s®) Facilitating Long-term Improvements in Graduation and Higher Education for Tomorrow (FLIGHT) program. FLIGHT provides mentoring, scholarships, and additional support services to help disadvantaged middle and high school students stay on track for graduation, apply to college, and enroll in college.

FLIGHT students also have access to college transition and retention services in their first three semesters of college. This What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) report, part of the WWC’s Transition to College topic area, explores the effects of the FLIGHT program on student success. The WWC identified six studies of FLIGHT, and one study met WWC standards.

What Happens When Students Participate in FLIGHT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The WWC found that implementing FLIGHT:</th>
<th>Average performance (study findings)</th>
<th>Evidence meeting WWC standards (version 3.0)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May increase the number of students who enroll in college</td>
<td>Effectiveness rating: Potentially positive effects</td>
<td>Intervention group: 97% enrolled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May result in little or no increase in high school students’ attendance</td>
<td>Effectiveness rating: No discernible effects</td>
<td>Number of studies: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May result in little or no increase in high school students’ GPA</td>
<td>Effectiveness rating: No discernible effects</td>
<td>Number of studies: 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDINGS ARE BASED ON:

1 study with 241 students in Florida covering grades 6-Postsecondary

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

- Free & reduced-price lunch: 100%
- Gender: 65% female
- Race: 80% minority
- Ethnicity: 47% Hispanic

What Does FLIGHT Cost?

Detailed cost information is not available. FLIGHT relies on volunteers and TSIC® staff who were embedded in schools. Schools supply the dedicated space for staff training, individualized assistance, and workshops. FLIGHT receives funding from corporate, foundation, and private donations, matched by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation funded by the Florida Legislature, and in-kind services from volunteers, private foundations, and community agencies.

LEARN MORE

Read more about the FLIGHT intervention and the studies that are summarized here on the Intervention Report webpage.

Contact Take Stock in Children® for additional information on implementing FLIGHT.

ENDNOTE