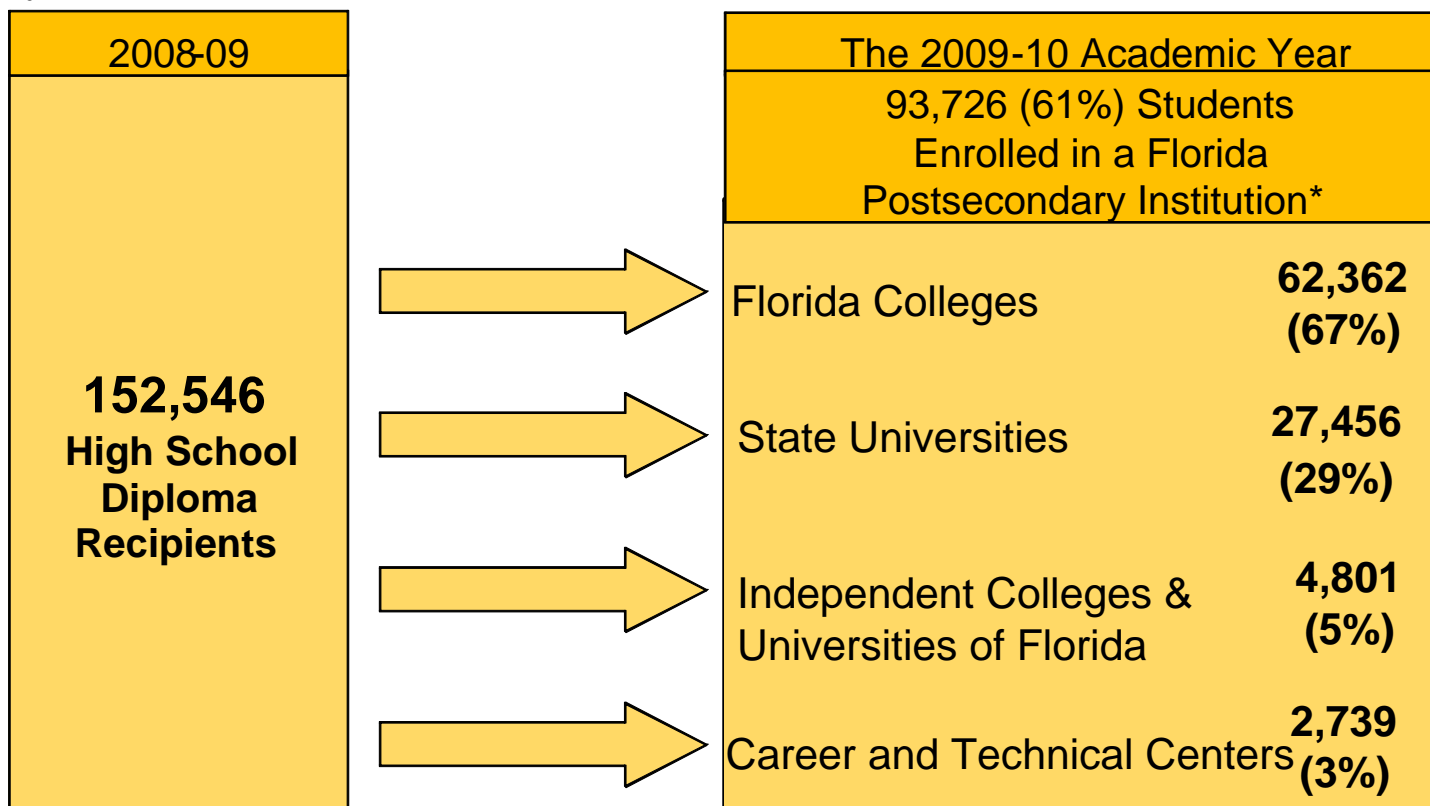


Enrollment Patterns in Florida Higher Education for Minority and Low-Income Students

The Florida College System (FCS) represents the point at which most citizens in Florida start their college careers. Whether the student is involved in dual enrollment while in high school or earning a certificate or a degree, the FCS serves a role in the education of 1 in every 21 Floridians. The results show that the open-door admissions policy for associate degrees and reasonable tuition costs make colleges in the FCS an attractive option for many people, especially for those who have been historically underrepresented or who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

This report examines enrollment trends of students in four sectors of higher education: The Florida College System, State University System (SUS), Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF), and Career and Technical Centers. First, enrollment trends for African American, Hispanic and white students are examined, by sector. Subsequently, enrollment patterns (by sector) for students who received Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) in the 8th grade are reviewed, with FRL status serving as a proxy for family income. Eighth graders who received FRL are used in this analysis since high school students are less likely to use FRL despite being eligible. Using 8th graders who received FRL provides the most accurate representation of students from lower income levels.

Exhibit 1. 2008-09 High School Diploma Recipients and Enrollment in Florida’s Postsecondary System



* Does not include students who enrolled in postsecondary education out of state, historically 4-5% of high school graduates.

Note: Percentages use 93,726 as the denominator and will add up to more than 100% because students may enroll in more than one sector.

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Data Warehouse

Exhibit 1 shows which postsecondary education sector 2008-09 high school graduates entered following graduation. Of the 152,546 high school diploma recipients, 93,726 or 61% of 2008-09 high school diploma recipients enrolled in one or more postsecondary institutions in Florida in the 2009-10 academic year. The percentages shown for each sector above represent the proportion of those students enrolled in the FCS, SUS, ICUF or Career and Technical Centers. These data show that 67% of 2008-09 high school graduates who continued their education enrolled in the FCS after graduation—a significantly larger proportion than any other sector.

Exhibit 2. Postsecondary Enrollments as a Percentage of Total High School Graduates

Race	High School Graduation	Total Graduates	Enrolled in FCS	Enrolled in SUS	Enrolled in ICUF	Enrolled in Career & Technical Centers	Unduplicated Count Postsecondary Enrollments
African American	2008-09	32,042	39.1% ↑	13.1% ↓	4.6% ↓	1.8%	56.3%
	2007-08	29,713	37.1% ↑	13.4% ↓	4.8% ↓	1.8%	54.6%
	2006-07	28,204	35.3% ↓	14.9% ↓	4.9% ↓	1.9%	54.0%
Hispanic	2008-09	33,912	44.8% ↑	12.3% ↓	2.3% ↓	2.3%	59.9%
	2007-08	31,175	45.1% ↑	13.1% ↓	2.3% ↓	2.1%	60.9%
	2006-07	28,697	43.1% ↓	15.8% ↓	2.5% ↓	2.5%	61.4%
White	2008-09	78,329	40.3% ↑	21.5% ↓	2.9% ↓	1.7%	63.8%
	2007-08	77,861	41.0% ↑	21.5% ↓	3.0% ↓	1.7%	64.4%
	2006-07	78,122	39.5% ↓	23.4% ↓	3.2% ↓	1.8%	65.0%

Note: Student must be enrolled in postsecondary the year following their high school graduation.

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Data Warehouse

Exhibit 2 provides the breakdown of postsecondary enrollments as a percentage of total high school graduates, by race and ethnicity. This table clearly shows that most African American, Hispanic, and white high school graduates enroll in the FCS the year following their high school graduation. Comparing Hispanics and whites enrollment proportions across sectors, Hispanic students are less represented in the SUS and ICUF than in the FCS. **Moreover, while enrollment declined in postsecondary overall, the percentage of minorities enrolling the FCS increased.** From 2006-07 to 2008-09, the proportion of African American and Hispanic students who continued to the FCS after high school increased even as the proportion enrolling in the SUS or ICUF decreased. Overall, these data show that more students start their higher education in the FCS than in any other sector and this trend has increased over the last three years among whites, African Americans, and Hispanics.

Exhibit 3. Postsecondary Enrollments as a Percentage of Those Continuing Their Education After High School

Race	High School Graduation	Unduplicated Count Enrolled in Any Sector	Enrolled in FCS	Enrolled in SUS	Enrolled in ICUF	Enrolled in Technical Centers
African American	2008-09	18,033	69.5% ↑	23.3% ↓	8.1% ↓	3.2%
	2007-08	16,236	67.9% ↑	24.5% ↓	8.8% ↓	3.3%
	2006-07	15,228	65.3% ↑	27.5% ↓	9.1% ↓	3.4%
Hispanic	2008-09	20,327	74.8% ↑	20.5% ↓	3.8% ↓	3.8%
	2007-08	18,981	74.1% ↑	21.5% ↓	3.8% ↓	3.5%
	2006-07	17,622	70.2% ↑	25.7% ↓	4.0% ↓	4.1%
White	2008-09	49,944	63.2% ↑	33.8% ↓	4.6% ↓	2.6%
	2007-08	50,147	63.6% ↑	33.3% ↓	4.6% ↓	2.6%
	2006-07	50,758	60.8% ↑	36.0% ↓	4.9% ↓	2.8%

Note: Student must be enrolled in postsecondary the year following their high school graduation.

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Data Warehouse

Exhibit 3 shows enrollments as a percentage of students enrolling in postsecondary institutions by sector and race. As with the previous exhibits, this table shows that the majority of students who are in Florida's postsecondary system (i.e., FCS, SUS, ICUF, and technical centers) enroll in the FCS. The FCS has the greatest proportion of African American and Hispanic students of any sector, and African Americans and Hispanics were represented in greater proportions than white students for all three academic years shown. White enrollments are more likely than minority students to enroll in the SUS, whereas minority enrollments are higher than white enrollments in the FCS. Technical centers provide education to approximately 3-4% of students enrolled in postsecondary institutions in Florida. Compared to any of the other sectors above, the FCS receives the highest proportion of high school graduates who go on to postsecondary work.

Exhibit 4. Enrollments by Postsecondary Sector by 8th Grade Free and Reduced Lunch Status

Year	8 th Grade FRL Status	Total Graduates	Enrolled in FCS	Enrolled in SUS	Enrolled in ICUF	Enrolled in Technical Centers	Unduplicated Count Enrolled in Any Sector
2006-07	No	76,836	41.0%	26.0%	3.6%	1.7%	69.1%
	Yes	42,621	37.2%	10.8%	3.0%	2.6%	51.3%
	Unknown	22,425	37.2%	20.3%	3.5%	1.5%	59.7%
2007-08	No	77,454	42.5%	24.0%	3.5%	1.6%	68.6%
	Yes	46,890	39.6%	9.4%	2.9%	2.3%	52.5%
	Unknown	21,751	38.2%	17.0%	3.1%	1.3%	57.4%
2008-09	No	77,952	41.9%	24.3%	3.4%	1.6%	68.3%
	Yes	53,216	40.3%	9.4%	2.9%	2.3%	53.2%
	Unknown	21,378	38.6%	16.4%	3.0%	1.2%	57.0%

Note: Student must be enrolled in postsecondary the year following their high school graduation.

Source: Florida Department of Education, PK-20 Education Data Warehouse

Exhibit 4 provides the proportion of postsecondary enrollments by sector and by 8th grade FRL status. Students receiving FRL are less likely to attend college but this is changing. When FRL students go to college, the majority go to the FCS. The gap between students who received FRL and those who did not is much greater in the SUS than in the FCS. For example, in 2006-07, the gap was 3.8 percentage points between the two groups in the FCS and was 15.2 percentage points for the SUS. In 2008-09, the gap decreased further in the FCS to 1.7 percentage points and was 14.9 percentage points for the SUS. These data also show that there was an increase in the percentage of FRL students who enrolled in the FCS (37.2% in 2006-07 to 40.3% in 2008-09). Fewer FRL students attended the SUS, compared to those who did not receive FRL or those whose status was unknown. **Additionally, the proportion of FRL students enrolled in the SUS decreased while increasing in the FCS.** For ICUF and technical centers, enrollment of FRL students ranged from approximately 2% to 3%.

The data in this report illustrates that the FCS serves as a key access point into higher education for many students—minorities, low-income students, and other students—providing a college education that is affordable and within reach for much of Florida’s citizens. Since 2006-07, the trend shows an increasing percentage of African American, Hispanic, white, and “Free and Reduced Lunch” students to be enrolling in The Florida College System, compared to either the SUS or ICUF.

For more information please contact:

Dr. John Hughes, Associate Vice Chancellor for Evaluation

John.Hughes@fldoe.org

(850) 245-9482

Dr. Kathyrine Scheuch, Research Analyst

Kathyrine.Scheuch@fldoe.org

(850) 245-9456



Florida Department of Education

Florida Department of Education
John L. Winn, Commissioner

The Florida College System
Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor
Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor

Phone: (850) 245-0407
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1544
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
www.fldoe.org/cc/