

Charter and Collegiate High Schools in the Florida College System

Charter schools in the Florida College System (FCS) are statutorily authorized when an institution, in cooperation with the school board within the college's service area, develops a charter school that offers secondary education and allows students to obtain an associate's degree upon graduation from high school. Since 1996, Florida public charter schools have provided smaller class sizes, alternative curriculums and increased opportunities for parental involvement. Additionally, Florida has a number of collegiate high schools, which are innovative schools designed to provide academic and technical education for high school students interested in pursuing college-level study.

Charter and collegiate schools strive to provide students with an enhanced learning environment. Florida's charter and collegiate schools awarded 944 associate degrees in academic year 2012-13. Collegiate high schools expose high school students to the dynamics and resources available on a college campus while also elevating expectations for student success. Some states have expanded on dual enrollment and have a middle/early college concept to transition and fully engage secondary students into college-level programs. The middle/early college concept provides students with a five-year [academic plan](#) (grades 9-13), offering a combination of high school and college classes that culminate in an associate degree or up to 60 transferable college credits. According to [US News and World Report](#), the early college concept was first pioneered by Jobs for the Future and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Other benefits of charter and collegiate schools include the reduction in time to degree and promoting alignment between secondary and postsecondary sectors. A [study](#) by Stanford University's [Center for Research on Education Outcomes](#) (June, 2013) found minority students from low-income families benefit from charter schools more than their peers in other groups. Schools such as the high school/college hybrids in Chicago offer job training and have declared a special commitment to low-income, first generation, immigrant and minority students.

Charter School — Charter schools shall be part of the state's program of public education (see Section (S.) 1002.33, Florida Statute (F.S.)). A charter school may be formed by creating a new school or converting an existing public school to charter status. A public school may not use the term charter in its name unless it has been approved under this section.

Charter-Technical Career Center — Charter-technical career centers can assist in promoting advances and innovations in workforce preparation and economic development education (see S. 1002.34, F.S.). A charter-technical career center may provide a learning environment that better serves the needs of a specific population group or a group of occupations. Therefore, the creation of such centers is authorized as part of the state's program of public education. A charter-technical career center may be formed by creating a new school or converting an existing school district or college program to charter technical status.

Collegiate High School (not chartered) — Any collegiate high school that does not fall under the charter school category.

Career Tech Prep Academy (not chartered) — Any career tech prep academy that does not fall under the charter-tech career center category.

Dual Enrollment/Early Admission —early admission is when a high school student is enrolled full-time in college courses that lead to a certificate, associate or baccalaureate degree. Some early admission programs may be structured so eligible students are able to complete high school and associate degree requirements simultaneously (see S. 1007.271(10), F.S.).

In fall 2013, the Florida College System Chancellor’s Office administered a short survey to the 28 colleges to collect updated information on charter and collegiate high school partnerships. Fifteen colleges responded and reported having charter or collegiate high schools. All 28 colleges, even those without a charter or collegiate high school, offer dual enrollment options to their local service areas.

Exhibit 1. Charter and Collegiate High Schools in the Florida College System, 2013

| College Name | Name of Charter/Collegiate School | Type of School | Location | Dedicated Faculty | Student Enrollment Fall 2013 | Associate Degrees Awarded 12-13 |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Broward College | College Academy at Broward College | Collegiate High School | On campus | 13 | 346 | 175 |
| College of Central Florida | West Port High School | Early Admission | Off campus | 7 | 240 | 37 |
| Eastern Florida State College | Collegiate High School | Collegiate High School | On campus | 0 | 665 | 179 |
| Edison State College | Edison Collegiate High School - Charlotte | Collegiate High School | Off campus | 15 | 362 | 45 |
| | Edison Collegiate High School - Lee | Collegiate High School | On campus | 13 | 375 | Not Available |
| Florida Keys Community College | Charter School operated by Academica in facilities rented from FKCC | Charter School | On campus | 5 | 68 | 0 |
| Florida State College at Jacksonville | Pathways Academy Charter High School | Charter School | On campus | 16 | 134 | 0 |
| Hillsborough Community College | Lennard High School Collegiate Academy | Collegiate | Off campus | 0 | 115 | Not Available |
| Hillsborough Community College | Armwood High School Collegiate Academy | Collegiate | Off campus | 0 | 98 | 0 |
| Hillsborough Community College | Leto High School Academy | Collegiate | Off campus | 0 | 44 | 0 |
| Indian River State College | Clark Advanced Learning Center | Charter School | On campus | 9 | 242 | 6 |
| Miami Dade College | School for Advanced Studies - North Campus, Kendall Campus, Wolfson Campus, and Homestead Campus | Collegiate High School | On campus | 20 | 584 | 0 |

Exhibit 1. Charter and Collegiate High Schools in the Florida College System, 2013 (continued)

| College Name | Name of Charter/Collegiate School | Type of School | Location | Dedicated Faculty | Student Enrollment Fall 2013 | Associate Degrees Awarded 2012-13 |
|--|---|---|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Miami Dade College | New World School of the Arts | Collegiate High School | On campus | 53 | 481 | 0 |
| Northwest Florida State College | Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College | Charter School and Collegiate High School | On campus | 13 | 285 | 0 |
| Pensacola State College | Pensacola State Collegiate High School | Collegiate High School | On campus | 10 | 441 | 0 |
| Polk State College | Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School at Polk State College | Charter School and Collegiate High School | On campus | 5 | 280 | 0 |
| Polk State College | PSC Lakeland Collegiate High School | Charter School and Collegiate High School | On campus | 6 | 275 | 0 |
| St. Petersburg College | St. Petersburg Collegiate High School | Charter School | On campus | 5 | 239 | 0 |
| State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota** | State College of Florida Collegiate School | Charter School | On campus | 28 | 450 | No grads until 2014 |
| South Florida State College | Career Academy at South Florida State College | Career Technical Prep Academy | On campus | 5 | 100 | 0 |
| System Total | | | | 223 | 5,824 | 944 |

Source: Survey administered by FCS Research & Analytics

As shown, 15 Florida Colleges have a total of 20 partnerships: 12 collegiate high schools, 6 charter high schools, one early admission program and one career technical prep academy. Fifteen of these high schools were located on an FCS campus and five were located off campus. Of the 2,207 high school graduates reported (2012-13), 944 associate degrees and 7 certificates were awarded. Some schools will not have graduates until spring 2014.

Collegiate and charter high schools offer small class sizes and instructional strategies customized to meet individual learning needs. Students also have the opportunity to undertake college-level or technical education work and earn an associate degree or certificate while also completing a high school diploma. To find a collegiate or charter high school near you, please click on the school's link in the above table.

Bibliography

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For more information please contact:

Dr. Scott J. Parke, Vice Chancellor for Research & Analytics

Scott.Parke@fldoe.org, (850)245-9482

Dr. Kathyrine L. Scheuch, Research Analyst

Kathyrine.Scheuch@fldoe.org, (850)245-9456



Florida Department of Education

Florida Department of Education
Pam Stewart, Commissioner

The Florida College System
Randall W. Hanna, Chancellor

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