



Consortium of Florida Education Foundations Lighting the Way to a Bright Future Program



2024-25 Results

9 foundations participated

9,106 students impacted

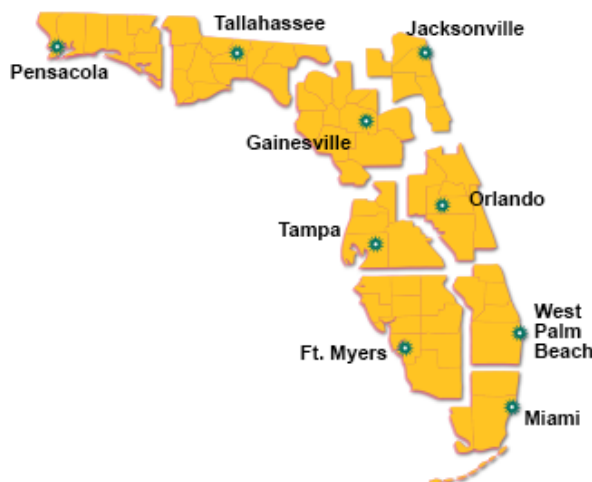
4,076 families involved

Lighting the Way to a Brighter Future is a statewide initiative presented in partnership by the **Florida Lottery** and the **Consortium of Florida Education Foundations**. The program expands college and career access for low-income students, promoting Bright Futures Scholarships through FAFSA support, career readiness events, test prep, and family engagement.

This year, **nine local education foundations** received \$5,000 to implement innovative strategies tailored to their communities. Together, they reached **9,106 students** and engaged **4,076 families**—empowering Florida’s youth to plan for a successful future beyond high school.

Participating education foundations featured initiatives were:

- **Alachua**: College and career prep across multiple high schools and middle school outreach for Gold Seal awareness.
- **Clay**: FAFSA challenges, College App Week, and career fairs with employers offering real-time job opportunities.
- **Broward**: Career exploration event with over 100 industry reps, financial aid workshops, and Bright Futures information sessions.
- **Hillsborough**: School-based College & Career Centers offering 1:1 coaching, FAFSA help, and Bright Futures presentations.
- **Lee**: FAFSA workshops, ACT waivers, and mentoring for Take Stock in Children scholars.
- **Leon**: BEACON volunteer mentoring model expands to new schools, lifting FAFSA completion rates.
- **Okaloosa**: County-wide career fair focused on underserved and CTE students.
- **Okeechobee**: FAFSA Family Night and Saturday SAT Boot Camps.
- **Orange**: Aspire to Excellence tours and enrichment programs for high-achieving first-generation students—100% of seniors gained college acceptance.



The program encourages early awareness and long-term planning by targeting students as early as 5th grade. From vouchers for tests to personalized coaching, *Lighting the Way* builds lasting pathways to opportunity, equity, and educational success.