

STUDENT APPLICATION

Seeking 9th through 11th grade college-bound youth in care

WHAT IS THE ACADEMY?

First Star Academy is a college preparation program which supports the academic and social emotional goals of youth in care throughout high school. This program includes monthly Saturday workshops that focus on life skills and academic preparation on the Illinois State University campus throughout the school year, opportunities for peer connections with other college-bound youth in care, and a three-week summer residential campus immersion program at Illinois State University. During the three-week summer immersion program, students will participate in academic enrichment classes, social support seminars, creative arts, and community service-learning projects. Caregiver engagement workshops are also provided as part of this program. First Star Academy students receive:

- College academic instruction (Math and English) a real start toward college immersion
- Encouragement, motivational training, life skills instruction
- Mentoring opportunities with Illinois State University college students and college professors
- Individualized attention and services focused on college admissions
- Theatrical and artistic expression
- Group reflections and team building
- Enrichment activities (e.g., recreation; physical education; game nights)
- Field trips and Service learning
- A laptop computer and technical support



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GETTING INVOLVED

- 1. We are seeking students who meet these eligibility requirements by being:
 - Current foster care youth
 - Currently in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade with at least a 2.0 GPA
 - Youth interested in college and academic support
 - > Youth interested in social emotional supports and life skill enrichment
 - ➤ Able to participate in Saturday Academies once a month at Illinois State University
 - ➤ Able to participate in the three-week residency Summer Immersion Program on Illinois State University campus June 4, 2022 June 25, 2022
 - ➤ Have caregivers or a concerned adult who can provide supports
- 2. Students should complete the student portion of the application and attach essay.
- 3. Student's caseworker should complete the Caseworker Recommendation portion.
- 4. Provide student's most recent report card noting student's GPA with guardian permission to release academic information to First Star Illinois State University Academy Director.
- 5. Email the entire application packet (3 items listed below) to: Stacey Wiggins, Interim Academy Director at firststaracademy@ilstu.edu.
 - ✓ Student Application with essay
 - ✓ Caseworker/Counselor Recommendation
 - ✓ Academic Report Card

It is important that you complete your application as soon as possible, as there are a limited number of slots in the Program. **Priority deadline for application is December 18, 2021.**



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SELECTION PROCESS

Once the completed application has been received, a selection committee will review all eligible candidates in order to select the top students to participate in First Star Academy. Selection will be based on a combination of:

- ✓ Academic potential
- ✓ Student written responses
- ✓ Adult and Caseworker recommendations
- ✓ Interview

Both the student and the adults making the recommendation will be notified regarding acceptance into First Star Academy. The student and caregiver will be required to attend a New Scholar Orientation; Scholars officially begin in March 2021.

For more information, please contact:

Stacey Wiggins
First Star Academy ISU Interim Director
Illinois State University
School of Social Work
275 S. University Street
Campus Box 4650
201 Rachel Cooper
Normal, IL 61790-4650

Phone: 309-438-8541 Email: swiggin@ilstu.edu

https://adoptionresearch.illinoisstate.edu/projects/first-star-academy/



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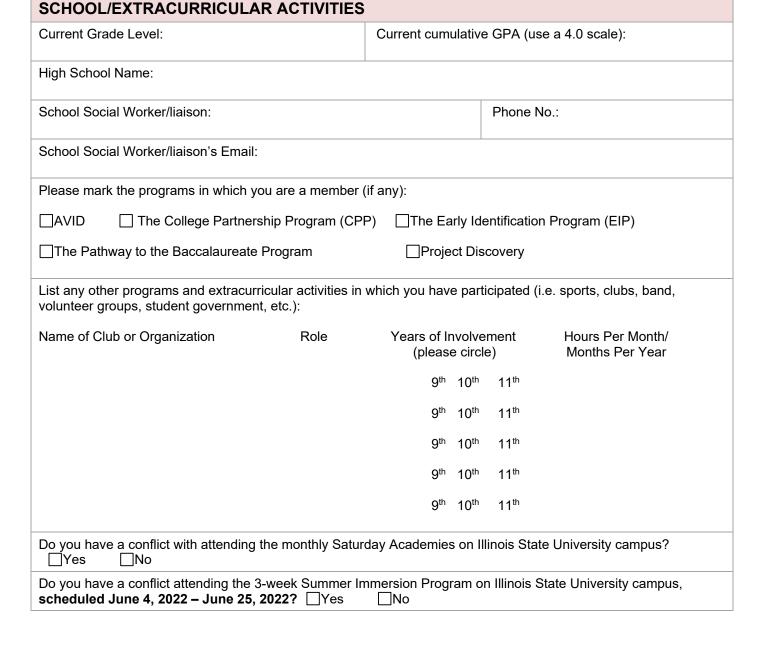


first star putting children first

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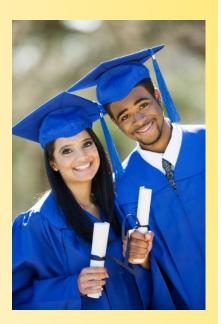
STUDENT-PORTION OF APPLICATION

Phone No.:
Phone No.:
Date of Birth: / /
]Asian-American
] Pacific Islander
]Other
Phone No.:
Group Home





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STUDENT-PORTION OF APPLICATION (Continued)

Open-ended Essay Response: 100 or more words (submit as attachment):

- 1. What are your career goals after high school?
- 2. What do you like most about yourself AND what would you like to improve?
- 3. What brings you the greatest joy in life?
- 4. What is something that you do best?
- 5. Why do you wish to enroll in First Star Academy?

Signature

The information presented in my application is accurate, honestly presented, and has been written solely by me.

Student Signature	Date	
Caregiver's or Caseworker's Signature	 Date	



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Mandatory Caseworker Recommendation

(This section is to be completed in confidence by the caseworker).

Name of Student you are recommending:

Name:	Agency:			
Phone:	Email:			
Student's Therapist Name: Phone No.:				
Therapist's Email:				
Association/Agency:				
STUDENT'S INFORMATION				
Does this student have a significant history of behavior	□Yes □ No			
Does this student have significant mental health or med participation?	□Yes □ No			
Does this student currently have an Individualized Educ receive other academic supports?	□Yes □ No			
Is this student self-sufficient to manage his or her own I and self-administering their prescribed medication regu	□Yes □ No			
Are there any topics and/or instances that may cause the emotion?	□Yes □ No			
Has this student ever been adjudicated delinquent base degree murder, attempt to commit first degree murder, a felony, act in furtherance of a felony or act that would for the applicant's age?	□Yes □ No			
Is there additional necessary information that is pertine or social-emotional development of the student or the sadults?	□Yes □ No			
Please note: Yes responses must include proper co	onsent for release of information fo	orms for any		

I recommend this student for First Star Academy:	Recommended Enthusiastically	Not Recommended	Recommend with Reservation
For academic potential:			
For character and personal promise			
For ability to work well with others			
Overall recommendation			

Please respond to the following questions below (Submit as attachment):

- 1. Discuss the student's ability to succeed in a classroom setting without significant specialized academic resources or behavioral supports.
- 2. Share information about the student's goals, aptitude, character, and enthusiasm.
- 3. What coping strategies does the student utilize when in a stressful situation?
- 4. How would you describe the student's ability to self-regulate and self-soothe?

Submit Application to Stacey Wiggins Interim Director at firststaracademy@ilstu.edu.

For more information contact:

Stacey Wiggins First Star Academy ISU Interim Director 309-438-5841 Swiggin@ilstu.edu

Illinois State University School of Social Work and Center for Child Welfare and Adoption Studies are proud partners of First Star Academy.

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