Fair Futures
College Persistence Series
Summer: The Shortest Season

Presented by At the Table

At the Table

FairFutures>

- **Updates**
  - CUNY Policy
  - Admissions
- **Wrapping Up Last Semester**
  - Appeals
  - Holds
  - Balances
- **Building a Summer Checklist**
- **At the Table update!**

Updates (CUNY Policy)

1. Latest COVID vaccination guidelines
   a. All CUNY students are required to be not only vaccinated, but boosted
   b. Students must upload proof of vaccination to CUNYFirst
   c. Students who don't have the booster will not be able to register for in-person or hybrid classes
   d. Booster FAQs are here: https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/faqs/#bst1
2. Changes to CUNYFirst
   a. **How are we feeling about the new Student Center and schedule builder?**
   b. Here's a video on how to use the new schedule builder: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9q6OgggRDzc

Updates (Admissions)

1. CUNY and SUNY colleges are still admitting students for Fall 2022!
   a. Every CUNY school but Hunter is accepting incoming freshmen
   b. CUNY admissions statuses:
      https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/explore/closed-academic-programs/
   c. For SUNY schools, check the individual school.
2. Empire State College (ESC) can be a good choice for students who want an all-remote program!
   a. SUNY school
   b. Fully-online and grants credit for professional experience
   c. Find out more here: https://www.esc.edu/

Wrapping Up the Semester

- Discussion: How did it go?
- Dealing with holds, balances and appeals
- Case Study: Renita

Discussion: Wrapping up last semester
How did it go? What were the major successes and challenges? What's it been like for students at this point in the pandemic?

Appeals:
Dismissal, Financial Aid, & Grade Appeals

Dismissal Appeals
- A student is typically dismissed if their GPA falls below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters (sometimes it's lower for freshmen)
- If they do not meet the requirements of academic probation, they may be dismissed from the college
- If they are dismissed, they have an option to appeal
- Check the school's website for the deadline, but don't wait until the last day to submit

Documentation is important for all appeals

Appeals:
Dismissal, Financial Aid, & Grade Appeals

Grade Appeals
- Can appeal WU grade (Unofficial Withdrawal) and F Grade to change the grade to a W (official withdrawal)
  - W grades do not have a negative impact on GPA and look better on the transcript
- One-year deadline to appeal course grades, but better to do ASAP

Financial Aid Appeals
- If a student is not meeting SAP, they can lose financial aid
- Will have to do this along with dismissal if they are dismissed
- Extremely important to present documentation!

Documentation is important for all appeals

Holds:
Advising, Missing Document, Bursar Holds

Bursar Hold
- Results from a past-due balance on the student's account because:
  - Financial aid didn't come in (verification issue or incomplete application)
  - Had to return financial aid funds due to withdrawal
  - Not enough aid to cover tuition (and room+board if applicable)
  - Student incurred a small fine (i.e. for a library book)
- Will delay registration and may go to collections
- Steps for resolving holds:
  - Resolve any financial aid application/verification issues
  - Apply for additional/emergency funds (ETV, FYCSI, NYFC)
  - Ensure that the bursar is aware that the money is coming!

Holds:
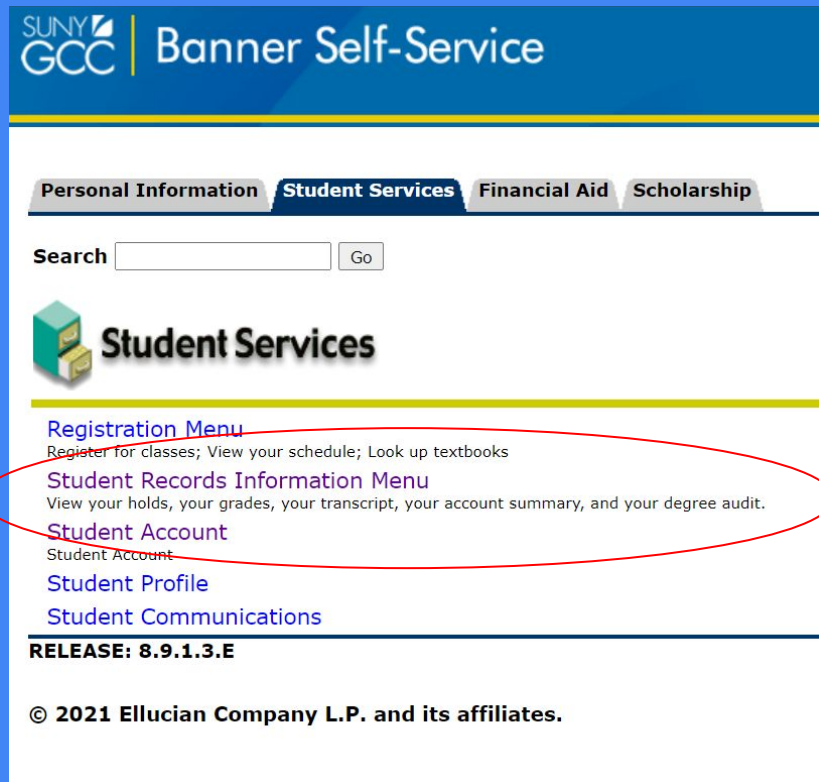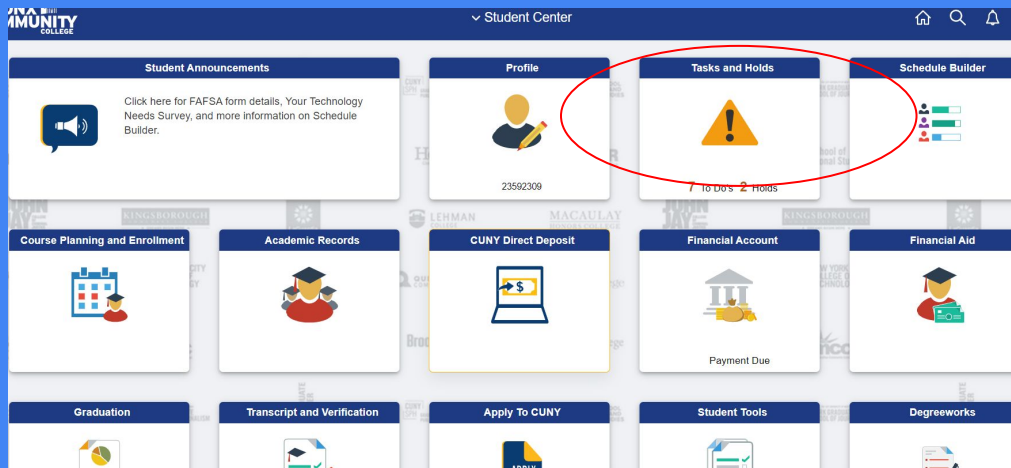## Advising, Missing Document, Bursar Holds

Advisement Hold
- Most common when students:
  - Are in support programs like ASAP
  - Need freshman advising
- May delay registration
- Student should see adviser

Missing Document Hold
- e.g. missing Meningitis immunization form
- Resolve by submitting the missing document

Checking for Holds and Balances (and To Do List items!)

Case Study

Renita

Renita was just academically dismissed from BMCC after her third semester at BMCC. She also lost financial aid because her GPA is a 1.7. She has 3 F's on her transcript and one incomplete that just turned into an F even though the says she turned in the work to the professor. She says she doesn't like BMCC and wants to go to a different school.
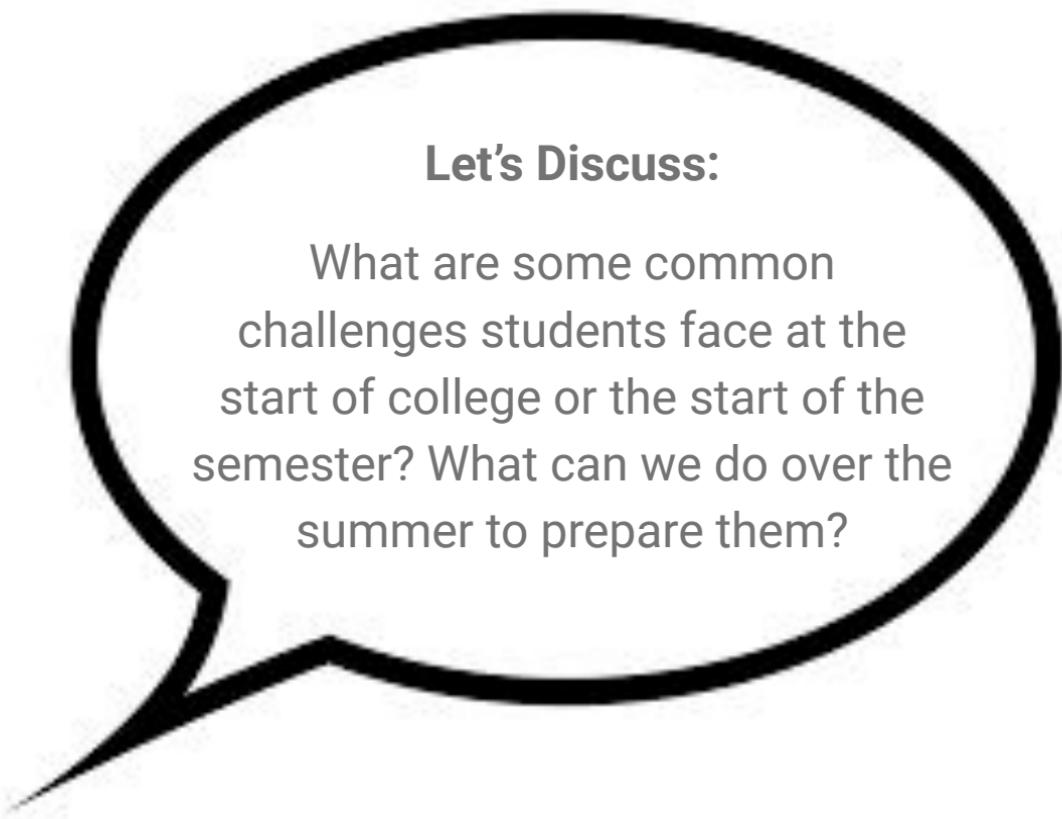
How would you advise Renita?

Case Study

Jason

Jason took 4 classes this semester. He received 2 Cs, a D, and WU. Because he stopped attending one of his classes about halfway through the semester, he now has a balance on his account.

How would you advise Jason? What would you prioritize in working with him?

Let's Discuss:

What are some common challenges students face at the start of college or the start of the semester? What can we do over the summer to prepare them?

Using the Summer to Support College Success

- Discussion: Getting ahead of common challenges
- Key steps
  - Financial aid and verification
  - Support programs
  - Registering for classes
  - Getting set up in Blackboard
- Case study: Serena

Financial Aid:
FAFSA, TAP, ETV

FAFSA

- Students in care on or after age 13 are independent (This is true NO MATTER HOW they left foster care)
- Can be completed online, on paper, or on app
- Available on October 1 for the following year
- Deadline is **end of the academic year** in which aid is requested
- Need tax information from two years prior, so 2023-2024 FAFSA would use 2021 tax information ONLY
- FSA ID: username and password you need to sign the FAFSA

Financial Aid:
FAFSA, TAP, ETV

TAP

- Must file FAFSA first (except undocumented students) and is also available on October 1
- Requires a Student College ID #
- Can only list one college at a time
- Dependency questions are different from the FAFSA
- Will require verification

Financial Aid:
FAFSA, TAP, ETV

ETV
- Students from NY State can apply online at https://etv-nys.smapply.org
- Application opens **July 1st (This Friday!)**
- **ETV eligibility update: can now apply if you've left foster care at age 14 or older, as long as you are below the age of 21.**
  - **Still important to apply before 21!**
- If colleges don't provide the requested information (such as financial aid verification, academic records, etc.), then the student might be asked to help retrieve it.
- More info: https://resources.fairfuturesny.org/AppendixG10

Financial Aid: Other Supports

- FYCSI
  - Available at all NY schools with EOP/SEEK/HEOP
  - Available to anyone who was in foster care at 13 or older (no age cap)
  - Work with the student to submit the consent form to OCFS: http://www.nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/foster-youth-college-success-initiative (see "Eligibility")
- Back to School Package
  - Free laptop and metrocard, opens before the semester starts
  - https://www.newyorkersforchildren.org/for-youth-agency-workers/
- Others we should know about?

Enroll in Support Programs:
START, ASAP, & FYCSI

CUNY Start
- Allows students to place out of remedial classes
- Once students complete CUNY Start, they can move on to either ASAP or College Discovery

Math Start
- Intensive 8-week program in math
- Weekly college success seminar
- Weekly MetroCard

Eligibility for both programs
- Enroll at a participating college
- Have at least one remedial need
- Commit to attending all classes
- For transfer students: have fewer than 15 credits and a GPA of 2.0 or above

Enroll in Support Programs:
START, ASAP, & FYCSI

Accelerated Study in Associate Program (ASAP) & ACE
- Cohorts by major
- Consolidated block schedule
- Smaller class size
- Advisement and career counseling
- Free metro cards and use of textbooks
- Financial aid gap covered
- Eligibility
    - Must be in an approved major
    - Have no more than two remedial needs
    - Must be full-time at a participating school
    - Must be a first-time freshmen OR have no more than 15 credits and a minimum 2.0 GPA

Enroll in Support Programs:
START, ASAP, & FYCSI

CUNY ASAP-FCI
- Open to students in ASAP or ACE
- Additional financial support and advocacy
- https://cunyasap.formstack.com/forms/fci

CUNY FYCSI
- Open to any student who was in foster care, a ward of the state, or orphaned after the age of 13
- Stipends and additional financial support
- Connection to social work interns at CUNY
- CUNY Contact: shirley.depena@cuny.edu

Get Organized for Class:
Registration, Blackboard & Books

Registration
- Register EARLY
- Use ratemyprofessor.com
- Use DegreeWorks and retake F's if possible!

Books
- Access to books can be a barrier to student success
  - Book check is frequently late for first time students
- Support programs may provide book stipends
- Can get books from college bookstore, Amazon, school library, etc.
- What do you do if the book stipend is delayed?

Get Organized for Class:
Registration, Blackboard & Books

Blackboard
- Houses assignments, professor contact info, grades, and can be used to submit work, so knowing how to use it is especially important for remote classes
- Syllabus is typically available on Blackboard and contains key information like:
  - Textbook and supplies needed for a course
  - Material the course will cover
  - Attendance and late work policy
  - How the course is graded!
  - Schedule of key assignments and exams (sometimes)
- **Always review syllabi with your first time students!**

Case Study

Serena

Serena wasn't expecting to graduate from high school at the end of the school year, but you found out a couple weeks ago that she was going to pass all her classes and her school gave her some extra packets to make up the credits she needs to finish. Her FP and guidance counselor are strongly encouraging her to go to college right away. She has not started the process and feels nervous. She likes art and graphic design, but is also interested in health professions.

How would you approach planning with Serena? What are some of her options? What would be your first priority?

Tracking Enrollment and Persistence Steps

- Fair Futures persistence checklist
- Individualized checklists for students
- Discussion: keeping track of steps for multiple students

Fair Futures College Persistence Checklist
https://resources.fairfuturesny.org/AppendixG16

COLLEGE GOAL:
Prepare for & Complete College Semester with 2.0+
Complete this worksheet if the young person is enrolled in college.

REQUIRED STEPS (COMPLETE ALL)	COMPLETED?	DATE	PROGRESS NOTES
Ensure student has food, transportation, and basic minimum living expenses before stipends/financial aid comes in	YES ○ NO		
Check in with young person before first day of college semester	YES ○ NO		
Check in with young person after first day of semester to debrief on experience	YES ○ NO		
Ensure student has a plan to purchase books	YES ○ NO		
Check student's financial aid balance after the first week of school to ensure there is nothing owed and no holds; *follow up with Bursar/Financial Aid office if needed*	YES ○ NO		
Ensure student understands how to use college systems (e.g., Blackboard, CUNYFirst, etc.)	YES ○ NO		
Ensure student's address is correct in the college system	YES ○ NO		
Ensure student understands consequences of attendance policies (e.g., after two missed classes a grade drops)	YES ○ NO		
Walk through all syllabi with student and put assignment due dates in calendar	YES ○ NO		
Check in with young person before "withdraw" period is over; *if they need to withdraw from any classes, see Advisor and refer to Fair Futures Program Manual and Appendix G17*	YES ○ NO		
Check in with young person during mid-terms	YES ○ NO		
Provide emotional support to student; check-in on them weekly	YES ○ NO		
Check in with young person during finals	YES ○ NO		

POTENTIAL STEPS (EXPLORE IF NEEDED/APPLICABLE)	COMPLETED?	DATE	PROGRESS NOTES
Attend any orientation	YES ○ NO		
If student is enrolled in an Opportunity Program, ensure student attends any mandatory summer programs if needed	YES ○ NO		
Assist student with accessing mental health supports and/or peer group supports to emotionally prepare for college	YES ○ NO		
Visit college to get familiar with campus	YES ○ NO		
Apply to ASAP program if in CUNY (and if not already enrolled	YES ○ NO		

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COLLEGE PERSISTENCE CHECKLIST

BEFORE COLLEGE:

☐ **APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID**
  ☐ Create an FSA ID
  ☐ Fill out the FAFSA
  ☐ Fill out the TAP application
  ☐ Save a copy of the FAFSA Student Aid Report for records

☐ **APPLY FOR COLLEGE**
  Best practice: all college applications should be done by Halloween

☐ **APPLY TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS**
  ☐ Apply to the Dorm Project *(if interested and eligible)*
  ☐ Make sure "**YES**" is checked on college applications answer to any questions about interest in ASAP/ACE or Opportunity Programs (HEOP/EOP/SEEK/CD).
  ☐ Fill out supplemental applications for HEOP/EOP/SEEK/CD
  ☐ Check your email regularly for outreach from opportunity programs and respond quickly

☐ **APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**
  ☐ If applying to private schools, fill out College Board CSS
  ☐ Research scholarships as needed and apply (see Appendix G11)

☐ **ACCEPT AN ADMISSIONS OFFER**
  ☐ Contact the school admissions department to see if they are willing to waive the commitment deposit
  Most colleges require offers to be accepted by May 1st. If you need more time, call the admissions department

☐ **GET ORGANIZED**
  ☐ Make a folder for college paperwork (keep somewhere safe)
  ☐ Get a copy of a foster care letter on agency letterhead
  ☐ Write down your login and password for any college student account in the folder
  Share passwords with agency educational specialist or case planner to avoid getting locked out of your student account!
  ☐ Plan to check your email regularly (3-4x per week)

☐ **VERIFY INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS FOR FINANCIAL AID**

EVERY SEMESTER:

☐ **PURCHASE BOOKS AND ONLINE ACCESS FOR ALL CLASSES BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER!**
  Agencies should make emergency funds available for any students who do not have books either due to a funding gap or a delay

☐ **CHECK IN WITH:** Coaches, tutors, counselors, and any other supportive adults regularly, especially during freshman year

AT THE HALFWAY MARK OF THE SEMESTER:

☐ **CHECK IF IT'S NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW FROM ANY CLASSES**

☐ **REGISTER FOR CLASSES FOR NEXT SEMESTER**
  Registration for the next semester opens around the middle of the semester.
  Students should register for the following semester as soon as possible; definitely before they start studying for finals.

☐ **REVIEW GRADES FROM THE SEMESTER**
  Celebrate the positives, and make a plan to improve anything that needs improvement

☐ **SUBMIT ANY NEEDED APPEALS**
  ☐ Grade appeals (if received "WU" or "F" or was graded unfairly)
  ☐ Financial aid appeals (if student lost financial aid)
  ☐ Dismissal appeals (if academically dismissed)

IF ELIGIBLE FOR ETV:
  ☐ Send Transcript to ETV
  ☐ Fill out ETV Financial Aid Release Form

IF DORMING AWAY:
  ☐ Submit documents to continue dorming away stipend
  ☐ If student is turning 21, email phyllis.brodsky@acs.nyc.gov to transition to Exceptional Payment status
  ☐ Reapply for room and board pass-through

☐ **REAPPLY FOR NYFC BACK TO SCHOOL PACKAGE**
  Even students who already have a laptop will receive an Amazon gift card every semester if they reapply.

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Assist student with accessing mental health supports and/or peer group supports to emotionally prepare for college	○ YES ○ NO	
Visit college to get familiar with campus	○ YES ○ NO	
Apply to ASAP program if in CUNY (and if not already enrolled in Opportunity Program)	○ YES ○ NO	
Create study plan	○ YES ○ NO	
Connect young person to tutoring	○ YES ○ NO	
If student wants to withdraw from classes/drop out completely, discuss pros/cons, financial implications, and meet with advisor	○ YES ○ NO	
Check in with college counselor (or ACS Coach/Tutor) as needed	○ YES ○ NO	
Connect youth with campus Disability Services office	○ YES ○ NO	
Enroll in work-study	○ YES ○ NO	
Celebrate finishing with 2.0+	○ YES ○ NO	
Other:	○ YES ○ NO	

For additional space, please see reverse side.

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- ☐ Plan to check your email regularly *(3-4x per week)*

☐ **VERIFY INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS FOR FINANCIAL AID**

☐ **REGISTER FOR CLASSES**

☐ **ATTEND ANY SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAMS OR ORIENTATIONS OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE**

☐ **IF DORMING AWAY:**
- ☐ Pay any housing deposits up front
- ☐ Arrange for room and board pass-through
  Click here for PDF with more information *(pages 18-26)*
- ☐ Arrange for a dorming away stipend
  Contact ocbsp@acs.nyc.gov for more information
- ☐ Make sure dorm supplies are purchased before the student moves into the dorm

☐ **APPLY FOR NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL PACKAGE PROGRAM** *(if currently in care/aged out)*
It is vital every student going to college has a laptop of their own

☐ **ARRANGE FOR DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS (IF NEEDED)**
Contact campus office for students with disabilities

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☐ **IF STUDENT IS INTERESTED IN TRANSFERRING:**
- ☐ Submit transfer applications (see Appendix G18, Transferring Colleges Guide)

☐ **IF STUDENT IS NEARING COMPLETION OF A 2-YEAR DEGREE AND WANTS TO TRANSFER TO A 4-YEAR COLLEGE AFTER:**
- ☐ Submit transfer application (see Appendix G18, Transferring Colleges Guide)

EVERY YEAR:

- ☐ FILL OUT ETV APPLICATION
- ☐ REAPPLY FOR FAFSA AND TAP
- ☐ APPLY FOR REPRESENT MAGAZINE AWARDS FOR YOUTH IN CARE COMPETITION
- ☐ APPLY FOR NICK'S SCHOLARS

You might want to distill the relevant parts of the Fair Futures checklist into a shared doc to work on together with your student!

Here's an example of a customized checklist At the Table staff have been working on with some incoming students this summer:

Financial Aid
Have I...
- ☑ ~~Completed FAFSA~~
- ☑ ~~Completed TAP application~~
- ☐ **Completed ETV application**
- ☐ Completed Verification
- ☑ ~~Completed FYCSI eligibility form~~

Classes & Registration
Have I...
- ☐ **Met with my advisor**
- ☐ **Enrolled in classes**

Getting Organized
Have I...
- ☑ ~~Set up my student email account~~
- ☑ ~~Submitted immunization forms to my college (if needed)~~
- ☐ Gotten my books
- ☐ **Learned how to navigate CUNYFirst**
- ☐ Learned how to navigate Blackboard
- ☐ Read through all of my syllabi
- ☐ Put class meeting times, zoom links, and major assignment deadlines in my calendar

Other Tasks (add any school-related tasks you should complete this summer below)
Have I...
- ☐ Submit name change form
- ☐ FCSI interview scheduling
- ☐

Discussion: Keeping Track of Enrollment Steps

What do you do to keep track of **all** of your students and what they need to do to be ready for the semester?

At the Table
Long-Term 1:1 College Tutoring + Advising

- We were founded in Fall 2020 with a mission to ensure that **every student in foster care gets a good education, believes in their ability and potential, and is connected to people who support their dreams.**

- We provide **college tutoring and academic advising** for 60+ students currently **and formerly** in foster care and we are hoping to double this number next year. We also provide **training + technical support** to staff + organizations working at the intersection of education and foster care (including to the Fair Futures Initiative).

- Since our founding we've provided over **2,500 tutoring and advising sessions** and 400+ hours of training + technical support.

- Most of our board has lived experience of foster care and we bring a set of **values** to the work that includes not turning students away due to past grades, seeing + supporting our students as whole people, and working in equal partnership with them to achieve their goals (not ours)

- **Refer students at www.atthetable.org/for-students**

At the Table