The CUNY Start-ASAP Foster Care Initiative (FCI) is a pathway initiative to support the college readiness, matriculation, and timely graduation rates of youth in foster care (“foster youth”) at CUNY. FCI partners with foster agencies around New York City to assist foster youth in registering for CUNY Start, Math Start, and/or ASAP and provides an additional layer of support once students enroll in these programs.

The FCI Baseline Survey seeks to better understand student expectations and supports in high school and during the college admissions process. New FCI students were surveyed in Spring 2016, Fall 2016, and Spring 2017. Out of 90 survey recipients, 44 responded. Among these students, 24 were in CUNY Start and 20 in ASAP.

### Aspirations

85% of students thought it was “very” or “extremely” important to get a college education.

### Expectations

- **How optimistic were students about attending college?**
  - Not at all/Slightly: 19.5%
  - Somewhat: 22.0%
  - Very/Extremely: 58.5%

- **How knowledgable were students of college admissions requirements?**
  - Not at all/Slightly: 12.2%
  - Somewhat: 29.3%
  - Very/Extremely: 58.5%

### Supports

- **Students discussed college admissions with the following:**
  - Case Worker*: 95%
  - Friends: 88%
  - Relatives: 80%
  - Counselor or Teacher: 75%
  - Foster Parent: 73%

Respondents said these individuals were most helpful in the open-ended questions.

*Includes educational specialist, whose accessibility depends on a student’s foster care agency.

### Mentorship

3 of 5 students had a mentor at their foster care agency who helped with the admissions process.