



According to the U.S. Department of Education, if you are born into a poor family, you are ten times more likely to drop out of high school than your middle class peers. You are more likely to suffer chronic illness, 54% less likely to hold a job and pay taxes, and 8 times more likely to be imprisoned.

The mission of the Take Stock in Children Program (TSIC) is to break the generational cycle of poverty by providing mentoring, education, and hope to motivated at-risk students in Brevard public schools. This program is part of a statewide initiative operating in 49 counties in the state of Florida. Currently, Brevard Public Schools reports sobering statistics on the rise: over 37,000 students qualified for the free or reduced lunch program, meaning that over 52% of Brevard county students live at or below the federal poverty level. Lack of education has long been identified as the anchor of poverty and social immobility. And poor students consistently battle barriers to educational resources, the tool that is the most effective way to break the generational cycle of poverty.

The Take Stock in Children (TSIC) Program successfully prevents dropouts and instills academic enthusiasm in Brevard County's most underprivileged and at-risk students. Beginning in middle school and following through to college matriculation, our students receive weekly mentoring, academic planning and grade evaluation, advocacy, college preparation, and upon successful completion of the TSIC program, a two year Florida Pre-paid scholarship. Currently, there are 203 students enrolled in Brevard County TSIC.

The objective of the Brevard County Take Stock in Children Program is to eradicate the generational cycle of poverty and dependence on government assistance through education, high school completion, and promotion of college attendance and graduation. In Brevard Public Schools, over 6,000 students are eligible to apply for the TSIC program. While annually nearly 300 students apply to the program, the average number to be accepted is about 55 because the scholarship must be secured before a student is accepted into the program. It is the strategic goal of Brevard County TSIC to aggressively fundraise and increase the student acceptance by 10% each year.

The Take Stock in Children Program (TSIC) is the signature program of the Brevard Schools Foundation. Take Stock in Children Brevard County was started in 1996 and has raised more than \$3.5 million dollars in scholarships for local students to continue their education.

TSIC is a statewide program with corporate offices located in Miami. The corporate office provides resources and training for the staff and volunteers to further the mission of the program. The average low-income high school graduation rate in Florida is 70%. Students in the TSIC program graduate at a rate of 98%. Clearly the program is having a huge impact on our community.

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