

Youth Guidance's **STRIVE Program (Strategies to Rejuvenate Interest and Value in Education)** is a valuable partnership with local public schools and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). This program is dedicated to supporting youth in care during their transition into adulthood and empowering them to lead productive lives.

STRIVE focuses on integrating support systems within schools to deliver essential counseling and academic assistance to youth in care and their families. Through these resources, the program aims to help these young individuals achieve both social and academic success.

STRIVE serves 7th-12th grade youth in care who are enrolled in Chicago Public Schools, District 205, and District 209.

STRIVE has proven to be an essential lifeline for youth in care, guiding them on their journey, keeping them engaged in education, and equipping them with the necessary tools to succeed in life.

CURRENTLY IN THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR, STRIVE REACHES:



127 YOUTH

between the ages of 14 and 21



74 SCHOOLS

in the Chicago area



STUDENT STORY

Bria* entered DCFS care at the age of five. Over the years, she faced numerous challenges, including depression and the search for her biological family. When Bria joined STRIVE during her freshman year, she discovered a compassionate advocate and reliable support in her counselor. With the continuous care and guidance from her STRIVE counselor, Bria found the strength to cope with her hardships, maintain her academic performance, graduate on time, and secure admission to a four-year university. The STRIVE Program played a vital role in helping Bria overcome depression and personal difficulties, enabling her to achieve academic success.

*name changed for confidentiality

**YOUTH
GUIDANCE**
GUIDING KIDS TO BRIGHT FUTURES

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