



## To Parents/Guardians of **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** in Marion County Public Schools

### **Your Child May Be Eligible for a College Scholarship!**

*Take Stock in Children* helps students from low-income families achieve academic and personal success by providing them with volunteer **mentors** & college **scholarships**. *Take Stock* is a statewide program, locally a part of the Public Education Foundation. Students attending Marion County Public Schools are selected through a competitive process during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students who have completed all of the requirements of the *Take Stock* program throughout high school, will receive a 2-year college tuition scholarship through the Florida Prepaid Foundation/Project STARS program.

#### **To be eligible to apply, your child MUST meet the following criteria:**

- 2.5 unweighted Grade Point Average (C+ average or above in all classes)
- Families **MUST** meet the **free/reduced income eligibility guidelines (on back of this flyer)**
- Families must provide income tax documentation or other qualifying financial documents which can include SNAP, TANF or Medicaid benefits statements listing student as a dependent

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#### **If you meet the eligibility requirements, please note the following dates:**

**October 1st, 2023** – Applications available in guidance and online at:

<https://pefmc.org/programs/take-stock-in-children/>.

\_\_\_\_\_ - **Completed Scholarship Applications DUE to your school's guidance counselor. Do not email the application to the Public Education Foundation. All paperwork must go through your school's guidance department before being turned into the Public Education Foundation.**

- Applications must be completed and submitted **with proof of income attached (please see above)**
- Families will be notified of their application status by the end of March 2024
- Eligibility does not guarantee a student will be accepted. A limited number of students are accepted.

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#### **If selected for a Take Stock in Children scholarship, you & your child will sign an official contract and pledge to:**

- Attend a Marion County Public School High School and participate in local Take Stock activities
- Maintain a 2.5 Unweighted GPA or above during high school
- Remain drug and crime free and abide by school conduct guidelines
- Meet with a volunteer **mentor** weekly and participate in College Readiness activities

**For more information about the Take Stock in Children program please contact Diana Scroggie at (352) 671-4165 or email: [diana.scroggie@marion.k12.fl.us](mailto:diana.scroggie@marion.k12.fl.us)**



**Income eligibility guidelines for 2023-2024.**

**TABLE 1**

**Qualifying Under Free and Reduced Lunch Program /USDA Guidelines**

**Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024**

<b>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</b>	<b>ANNUALLY</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>TWICE PER MONTH</b>	<b>EVERY TWO WEEKS</b>	<b>WEEKLY</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>26,973</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>519</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>36,482</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>702</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>45,991</b>	<b>3,833</b>	<b>1,917</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>885</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>55,500</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,068</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>65,009</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>1,251</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>74,518</b>	<b>6,210</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>2,867</b>	<b>1,434</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>84,027</b>	<b>7,003</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>3,232</b>	<b>1,616</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>95,536</b>	<b>7,795</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>3,598</b>	<b>1,799</b>
<b>For each additional family member, add</b>	<b>9,509</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>183</b>

*Please note total income before taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues or other deductions should be reported. Take Stock in Children uses the Free and Reduced lunch eligibility guidelines as a screening tool. All applicants will also have to submit financial documents for proof of income.*

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