



Best Practices for Higher Education

Title of Best Practice: STEPS – Students Taking an Effective Path to Success

Which category does this practice fall under? Check all that apply.

	<p>Enrollment Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with admissions process • Encouragement to seek post-secondary education
	<p>FAFSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determinations • Redeterminations
	<p>Identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of homeless youth on campus – among faculty, staff, and administrators • Awareness of homeless youth on campus – among students
X	<p>Supports for Basic Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • School supplies
X	<p>Supports for Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-campus solutions • Off-campus solutions
X	<p>Supports for Academic and Emotional Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic advising • Counseling services
	<p>Campus Service Projects</p>

Where did this practice/information come from? Where was it implemented?
College of St. Joseph in Vermont
Submitter contact information
Contact Information: admissions@csj.edu , 802-776-5205
On-site contact information [the person(s) in charge of the program]
Same as above
Description of practice
STEPS is a full-time residential program for Vermont youth transitioning out of foster care. It provides a supportive campus environment for students so they can earn a college degree, develop work skills, and experience optional counseling and guidance support. CSJ solves logistical problems foster youth traditionally face by offering year-round housing and meal service. STEPS students also have access to career and personal counseling.
How long has this practice been in place?
Since 2008-2009
What have been the positive outcomes of this practice? What impact has it had on UHY?
The STEPS Program has a graduation rate that is 5 times the national average for youth who have transitioned from foster care to college. The first graduating class in 2012 had a success rate of approximately 10 times the national average for foster youth. Students in the STEPS Program report that they would recommend STEPS to others transitioning from foster care. Many STEPS students demonstrate consistent academic improvement, campus involvement and athletic success throughout their academic career at the College of St. Joseph.
What level of effort is required to implement this practice?
What level of effort is required to sustain this practice?
How is this practice funded?

How is this practice sustained?
Who should be involved?
What have been the challenges to implementation? How have those challenges been addressed? Do you have any advice or tips for others implementing this practice?
Related web links
http://www.csj.edu/admissions/undergraduate/steps/;
Description of attached documents