

Our Take

It's no secret that at a typical public high school, there are more freshmen than seniors.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, over 1.2 million students drop out of high school in the United States alone.

On average: 7,000 a day.

In 2014, the graduation rate for black students in the Clarke County School District was 59.2 percent. For Hispanic students it was 62.3 percent, and for white students 75.2 percent.

We're losing students, and fast.

And it's not all because students are lazy or unmotivated. Often times, some students have no choice but to look after their children or work odd hours to make ends meet.

Life calls, and sometimes that requires hanging up the phone on traditional high school.

That's where schools like Foothills Education Charter High School arrives, ready to lend a hand to students who are sinking.

FECHS is a new charter school located at Classic City High School, at 440 Dearing St. Extension off Broad Street, as well as six other locations around northeast Georgia. It offers students ages 14 to 20 a different opportunity to receive a high school education. In the CCSD, FECHS is open Monday through Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m.

Though similar to Classic City, a non-traditional high school in its own right, FECHS is more individualized--designated mentors check in with each student and his or her loved ones regularly--and all students work and learn at their own pace.

FECHS doesn't take away any funding for other schools. Just like every other CCSD school, it's paid for by tax dollars.

In other words: enrollment doesn't cost a cent.

So not only is FECHS free and accessible, it's also a fresh start for many students who could use one. If a student wants to get away from the distractions of traditional high school, or is looking for a new approach to graduating, FECHS is a real option to consider.

FECHS could prove the difference in the lives of our peers.



Below: A STEPPING STONE: Foothills Education Charter High School on-site coordinator Dinah Posey directs a student at FECHS on Tuesday, Aug. 18. "I really think that we can touch a lot of kids and provide support where they have given up along the way," Posey said.



Photo by Sophie Fernandes