

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Over the past 35 years, Pace Center for Girls has transformed the lives of more than 40,000 girls providing them with opportunities for a brighter future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Pace is a vocal and respected advocate for girls with histories of trauma, mental health needs, family conflict, and academic instability.

We support...

## Juvenile Justice Reform

- Banning the use of solitary confinement for incarcerated youth.
- Efforts to decrease the practice of direct filing of children into the adult corrections system, including the added opportunity for a due process hearing for youth and their families.

## Education Reform

- Offering students the option to utilize alternative high school graduation requirements.
- Increased access to and awareness of mental health and counseling services in schools.
- Increasing per pupil funding for students in grades K-12 and ensuring all categorical funds follow the student regardless of school placement.

## Human Trafficking and Child Abuse Prevention

- Preventing human trafficking and child abuse by providing education and resources to increase awareness of the signs of human trafficking and child abuse.

## Child Welfare Reform

- Comprehensive case management for families with children that are involved in multiple state systems to achieve permanent stabilization and avoid re-entry. This includes case management support for individuals involved across DCF systems and strengthened transition services for teenagers entering adulthood, in order to break multi-generation cycles of trauma and dependency.



Pace is gender-responsive, trauma-informed, and strength-based



Pace is a non-residential and voluntary prevention program

Pace Center for Girls advocates for legislation that develops comprehensive systems of care for girls at risk of delinquency and sexual exploitation; provides access to comprehensive wrap-around services, including well-being and mental health; and removes barriers to education and employment for girls.

Pace partners with the Florida Legislature, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Department of Education to provide a holistic delinquency prevention and early intervention model that diverts girls from the juvenile justice system and guides them toward a path of success at home, in school, and in their communities and decreases the cost to taxpayers compared to detention and incarceration.

## Pace Center for Girls

- Our 21 locations are structured like a school in that girls attend daily, take core subjects, and work toward a high school diploma or GED.
- Every girl receives comprehensive wrap around social services including case management for girls and their families.
- Pace provides school-to-work readiness skills development, life skills, and one year of transition services.

## Pace Reach Program Services

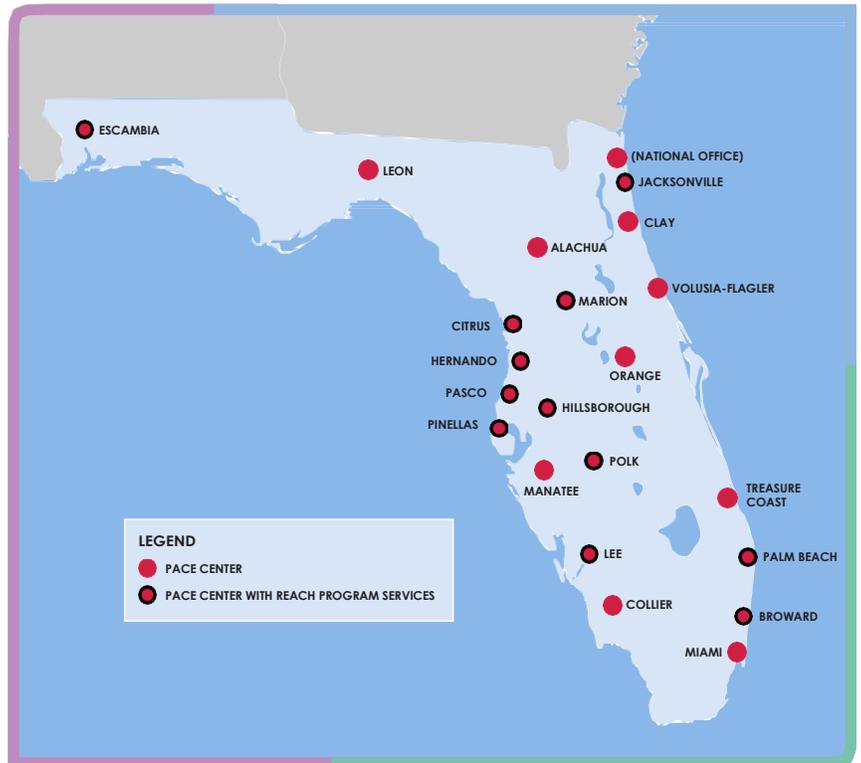
- Pace Reach is a prevention program that provides social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health counseling to middle and high school girls and their families.
- Services are school and community-based.

## Pace Center for Girls Outcomes

- Approximately 1 in 4 girls come to the Pace day program with a prior arrest and 94% of girls completing the program do not recidivate within one year after leaving Pace.
- Approximately 6 in 10 girls come to Pace with a history of suspension or expulsion and 88% of girls who successfully completed the program had transition plans to either continue to an academic/educational or vocational program or had a job at transition from the program.

## Pace Reach Program Services Outcomes

- 17% of girls come to Pace Reach with a prior arrest and 91% of girls completing the program do not recidivate within one year of transition.
- 3 in 4 Reach girls improved their mental health based on the POSIT assessment, an established, reliable, and validated assessment.



A recent random control trial evaluation found that Pace nearly doubles the likelihood of girls being on track to graduate from high school, compared to girls who were eligible but did not attend Pace.