

2022
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2023





OUR 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR (SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023)

35 WEEKS of school year programming where, three days a week, 65 students received one hour of academic support, one hour of squash instruction and a healthy snack.

85%
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE

90%
TEAM MEMBERS
RETAINED

525
HOURS OF
VAN RIDES*

*Transportation is a major barrier to after-school participation witnessed across Delaware. To combat this, First State Squash provides team members with transportation from their schools to programming, and, if necessary, transportation home.

Our community has showcased unwavering leadership and a steadfast commitment to preparing First State Squash for our present and the future. This passion was clearly displayed through the purchase of a state-of-the-art squash and education facility and the development of a comprehensive three-year strategic plan. Our organization has never been better equipped to expand enrollment and continue the delivery of youth development programming rooted in kindness, encouragement, and persistence.

Alongside our preparation, we are proud to spotlight the noteworthy accomplishments of our team members and their dedicated pursuit of their high school and post-secondary goals.

Go First State Squash!

Owen Butler, Executive Director

OUR TEAM

86 New and returning fifth, through eleventh grade team members

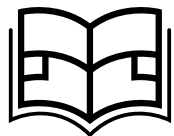
50%
FEMALE



50%
MALE

STUDENT BREAKDOWN

83% Team members who will be the first in their families to graduate from college



**SQUASH +
EDUCATION
ALLIANCE**
PROUD MEMBER

In 2016, First State Squash was founded with the support of the Squash and Education Alliance (SEA). Last year, FSS achieved rigorous programmatic and financial sustainability goals set by SEA and officially earned membership. We are excited for the academic and athletic opportunities our team members will have through this partnership.

FSS 6th-grade students tackle their summer novel unit on Restart by Gordon Korman.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT

150 Hours of homework help, literacy-based enrichment and academic counseling for all team members.

55 Hours of high school exploration and preparatory support for each 8th grade student.

432 Hours of community service completed by FSS team members in support of Wilmington nonprofits.

SQUASH AND WELLNESS

12 Tournaments and matches that FSS team members competed in.

15 Hours of health and wellness instruction offered to each FSS participant. Topics included: nutrition education, stress management, and goal-setting.

5 Tournaments and matches hosted by FSS at our newly transformed facility with 184 students served.

1 SEA National Champion
First State Squash's first ever
tournament victory!



FSS Champion, George with his opponent from the Cincinnati Squash Academy (pictured left).

OUR 2023 SUMMER (JULY 2023 -AUGUST 2023)

1.75

Hours per day spent in the classroom tackling novel units and wellness-centered elective courses.

5

FSS High School students interned as FSS camp counselors, working 225 hours each.

10

Students traveled to Phillips Exeter, Choate and Kent Academy to tackle academic enrichment and athletic camps.

FSS students were asked what they would communicate to a prospective team member. Here are a few of their responses:



This experience will be wonderful and exciting, so try your best and make new friends.
— Jade

Welcome to FSS. You will be a good player and be great at school! And you will get more fit.
— Angelina



You're gonna love it here!
— Juji

Serving will give you nightmares.
— Mikael



Governor Carney with Ronire, Kendrick and Olivia (left to right).

THE OPENING OF FIRST STATE SQUASH'S SQUASH AND EDUCATION FACILITY

First State Squash welcomed students, families, staff, board members, community leaders and elected officials to formally inaugurate our newly transformed home.

The ceremony in April marked the completion of important capital improvement work that has equipped our facility to tackle transformational growth, alongside providing current team members the resources they need to achieve and sustain academic and athletic excellence.

Speakers, including Governor John Carney, Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki, New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer, and State Senator Darius Brown, emphasized the critical role that programs like First State Squash play in the development and success of Wilmington's youth.

We are filled with immense gratitude for our network of supporters who helped make the facility purchase and capital improvements possible.



The crowd was inspired by teammates Aubrey and Solomon as they reflected on their experiences as members of FSS (left). FSS was proud to accept a tribute gifted by Delaware's House of Representatives from State Representatives Vernita Dorsey and Stephanie Bolden (right).



Elyas and FSS Academic Director, Olivia embrace after a hard fought victory at SEA Nationals.

PLANNING FOR FIRST STATE SQUASH'S FUTURE

FSS is poised for significant growth and impact. In preparation, the organization crafted a three-year Strategic Plan that will be utilized as a framework to guide the us through our next chapter.

As part of our planning, FSS aimed to assess the current status of our program and envision the future. We want to thank all of our stakeholders-FSS students, families, staff, and board members-as well as our peer organizations, who provided crucial input to ensuring FSS's plan was well-informed.

OUR MISSION:

First State Squash supports participants in achieving and sustaining personal academic success and physical wellness through long-term educational, athletic and community engagement opportunities.

OUR VISION:

First State Squash envisions a future where youth in Delaware have the tools, skills and experiences to navigate the squash court, classroom, and world at large with kindness, confidence, and resilience.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Leveraging stakeholder feedback, we are excited to share three strategic goals that will best support FSS reach our goal of working alongside 100 students by 2026.



STUDENT PATHWAYS

In three years, FSS will be equipped to support student pathways from early intervention through post-secondary transitions.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

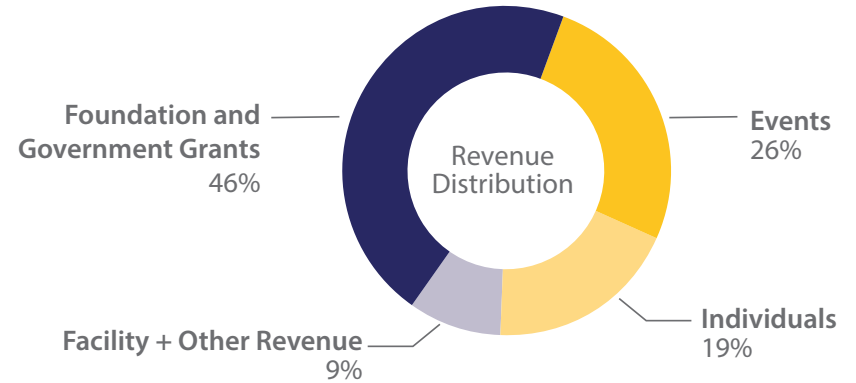
In three years, the FSS facility will be a safe space in the community and host vibrant opportunities for engagement from all FSS families.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In three years, FSS will have a high performing and people-first company culture that retains existing team members and attracts new and diverse talent to the organization.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



\$440,942

TOTAL 2022 - 2023 OPERATING SUPPORT RAISED



\$409,857

TOTAL 2022 - 2023 OPERATING EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)

\$668,189

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EXPENSES



FSS's middle school girls team huddles up in preparation for their SEA Nationals match (above). FSS's Squash Director, Makyla and Alvin are all smiles after he earned 5th place at SEA Nationals.

CONTRIBUTOR HONOR ROLL

First State Squash's growth and daily programming wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our contributors as well as a strong and dedicated corps of volunteers. Please see the following QR code for our list of annual supporters:



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SQUASH

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Governor Carney and Elyas prepare to cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the organization's Squash and Education Center surrounded by students, staff, directors and Delaware elected officials.