

FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP



SEPTEMBER 2017

OFFICE OF POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A LEARNING OPTION FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

How does it work? Companies receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions to non-profit scholarship organizations like Step Up For Students. Eligible students may choose between financial assistance toward private school tuition or with transportation costs to attend a public school in another district. Step Up awarded 101,869 scholarships, worth up to \$6,919 to economically disadvantaged K-12 students in 2017-18.

2017-18 FAST FACTS

101,869 scholarship students statewide*

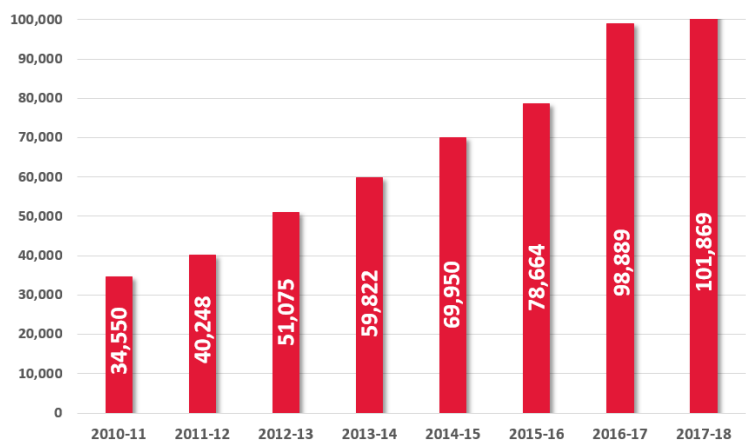
Average household income of \$25,341
or just 8.3 percent above poverty level

68 percent black or Hispanic

57 percent live in single-parent households

More than 1,700 participating private schools

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT



TESTING ACCOUNTABILITY:

- ✓ Students in grades 3-10 have been evaluated with state-approved national norm-referenced tests since 2006.
- ✓ Studies show the average scholarship student is among the lowest performers in their prior school, and that once on scholarship, students see similar learning gains to all students nationally, regardless of income.

THE SCHOLARSHIP AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPACT

For the 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR, the SCHOLARSHIP IS WORTH up to \$6,342 for grades K-5, \$6,631 for 6-8 and \$6,919 for 9-12; or between 88 and 96 percent of the legislature's operational appropriations for public schools.

Reports from the state Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Florida Revenue Estimating Conference and Florida TaxWatch ALL SHOW THE PROGRAM SAVES THE STATE MONEY.

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