

What Educators Are Saying About Step Up For Students

“I am an educator for 35 years, a school owner and principal for 25 years. I came into the profession to help promote equity and justice in America. We are all unique and creative beings. There is no one-size-fits-all way of learning and growing into successful, compassionate, well-adjusted people. I cannot think of a better way to promote equity and justice in education than through the Step Up scholarship. This scholarship not only equalizes the playing field economically, but allows those in poverty to enhance the lives of the economically privileged by being in the same private schools. We all gain in a diverse environment. We all lose in segregated settings. Myself, my students, my teachers and my community are all blessed through this amazing scholarship. “No Child Left Behind” can be accomplished if all private schools participate. Only in the diversity of private school choices can we meet the diversity in children and achieve successful well educated globally competitive students. I am privileged to be part of something that changes lives.”



-Nadia Hionides, Principal at The Foundation Academy, Jacksonville

“At Admiral Farragut, the way we operate is deeply rooted in history and rich in tradition, and being a positive influence in our community is a big part of that. Our mission is to give young people a solid foundation of academics, social and leadership skills, and a sense of integrity so they can become productive members of our global society. Why should anyone be denied this opportunity simply because of their economic status? We embrace diversity and believe all children deserve a chance, which is why we enthusiastically partnered with Step Up For Students and encourage other schools to do the same.”



-Captain Robert J. Fine, Jr., Headmaster of Admiral Farragut Academy, St. Petersburg

“Step Up For Students allows families who would otherwise be unable to attend Incarnation Catholic School an opportunity to acquire a private and Catholic education. As a Catholic organization, part of our mission is to serve all members of our community regardless of race, gender, economic status or even religion. Step Up for Students helps us to accomplish. Furthermore, the Catholic Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their child(ren). Thanks to Step Up for Students, more families can exercise this primary educational role and choose the education that they feel is the best for their child(ren). This program helps us to serve more students while still keeping tuition for all families at an affordable level. Over the course of the four years we have been a part of the program, Step Up for Students has helped ICS to continue to offer an outstanding Catholic education to the surrounding Tampa Bay community.”



-Michael Zelenka, Principal, Incarnation Catholic School, Tampa