

Program History & Summary

Through the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program ([s.1002.395, Florida Statutes](#)) and the Florida Sales Tax Credit (FSTC) Scholarship Program ([s. 212.099, Florida Statutes](#)), dollar-for-dollar tax credits are provided to companies that redirect certain tax liabilities to Step Up For Students, a state-approved Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO). The funds provide K-12 scholarships to disadvantaged children.

When companies invest in Step Up, they make a lasting impact on the lives of scholarship students and inspire a brighter future through personalized education. Since 2001, the corporate community has pledged more than \$3.9 billion to this initiative, providing more than 784,000 scholarships for economically disadvantaged children. **Taximize** is the word we've coined to describe how a company can optimize its tax liability to invest in underprivileged students through dollar-for-dollar tax credits. **Will you taximize?**

MISSION

Step Up For Students empowers parents to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children with an emphasis on families who lack the financial resources to access these options.

Parents use these scholarships to send their child to a K-12 public or private school that provides the learning environment that best meets their child's unique needs.

Scholarships are awarded to students, not schools, making them portable. If a school fails to meet the needs of a student or the expectations of a parent, they are free to choose another school approved by the Florida Department of Education.

FTC STUDENTS MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

★ In February 2019, the Urban Institute released an updated study to its 2017 analysis of the effectiveness of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program - the nation's largest private K-12 scholarship program. The study found that **students on scholarship for four or more years were up to 99 percent more likely to attend a four-year college than their peers in public school and up to 45 percent more likely to earn bachelor's degrees.**

FAST FACTS

- 57%** of all scholarship children are from single-parent households
- 69%** of benefiting scholarship students are African-American or Hispanic
- \$25,362** is the average household income of benefiting families – a mere eight percent above poverty

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Step Up has a **4-star rating from Charity Navigator** and is recognized as a **Platinum GuideStar member**. Step Up is ranked 19th by *Forbes* and 31st by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* in the publications' listings of largest nonprofits in the United States.



TAX LIABILITIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE 1:1 CREDIT

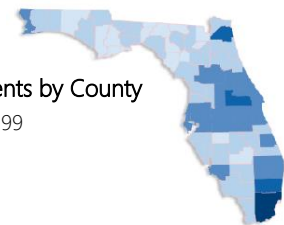
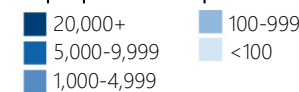


- Alcoholic Beverage Excise Tax – up to 90%
- Business Rent Tax – up to 100%
- Corporate Income Tax – up to 100%
- Direct Pay Sales and Use Tax – up to 100%
- Insurance Premium Tax – up to 100%
- Oil and/or Gas Production Tax – up to 50%

STATEWIDE IMPACT OF STEP UP

Step Up For Students is serving nearly 100,000 children in over 1,800 schools for the 2018-19 school year. Step Up is the only organization that has served the entire state of Florida since the program's inception in 2001. Scholarships for 2018-19 range from \$6,519 per student for K-5th grade, \$6,815 for 6th-8th grade and \$7,111 for 9th-12th grade.

Step Up Scholarship Students by County



More than 200 corporations partner with Step Up, including: 3M, Circle K, GEICO, HCA, Lowe's Companies, Raymond James Financial, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, UnitedHealthcare, U.S. Bank, Waste Management, Walgreen Co., among others.

STATE COST SAVINGS

Five independent studies on the financial impact of the program have each concluded **the program saves the state money**. The savings derive primarily from the scholarship amount calculation, which is less than state's per-pupil public school cost.

ACADEMIC GAINS

Students in grades 3-10 are evaluated annually with state-approved, national norm-referenced tests. Ten consecutive years of studies show the **average scholarship students are among the lowest performers in their prior school and, once on scholarship, students see similar learning gains to all students nationally, regardless of income.**