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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COPY

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.
4655 SALISBURY ROAD, NO. 400
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CENTER
OGDEN, UT 84201-0027



Form **990**

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning **JUL 1, 2016** and ending **JUN 30, 2017**

B Check if applicable:

Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization
STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.
Doing business as

D Employer identification number
59-3649371

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
4655 SALISBURY ROAD 400

E Telephone number
904-352-2246

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256

G Gross receipts \$ 533,642,917.

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)

F Name and address of principal officer: JOE PFOUNTZ
SAME AS C ABOVE

H(c) Group exemption number

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c) () (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: WWW.STEPUFFORSTUDENTS.ORG

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other

L Year of formation: 2000 **M** State of legal domicile: FL

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: STEP UP FOR STUDENTS EMPOWERS PARENTS TO PURSUE AND ENGAGE IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE LEARNING		
	2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	7
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	7
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a)	5	224
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	282
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0.
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0.	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	521,372,137.	533,245,078.
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	136,114.	0.
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	-8,472.	388,179.
	12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	7,046.	339.
		521,506,825.	533,633,596.
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	429,479,201.	548,456,006.
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0.	0.
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	11,092,449.	14,110,118.
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0.	0.
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)	2,139,326.	
		5,076,130.	5,466,829.
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	445,647,780.	568,032,953.	
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	75,859,045.	-34,399,357.	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
		543,244,522.	518,592,306.
	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	28,340,712.	37,945,946.
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	514,903,810.	480,646,360.
22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20			

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer: *Joe Pountz* Date: 11/15/17
JOE PFOUNTZ, CFO
Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: THERESA A. BURDINE, CPA
Preparer's signature: *Theresa A. Burdine* Date: 11/15/2017
Check if self-employed PTIN: P00362629
Firm's name: RSM US LLP Firm's EIN: 42-0714325
Firm's address: 7351 OFFICE PARK PL MELBOURNE, FL 32940
Phone no. 321-751-6200

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III [X]

1 Briefly describe the organization's 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. BY PURSUING THIS MISSION, WE HELP PUBLIC EDUCATION FULFILL THE PROMISE OF

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? [] Yes [X] No If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? [] Yes [X] No If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 541,915,225. including grants of \$ 536,440,936.) (Revenue \$) FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: THIS PAST SCHOOL YEAR, 97,900 UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS ATTENDED 1,733 PRIVATE SCHOOLS ON A STEP UP FOR STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP, AND FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR, WE ANTICIPATE SERVING ROUGHLY 104,000 STUDENTS. THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WAS CREATED TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE ENORMOUS EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN POVERTY. THE SCHOLARSHIP GIVES PARENTS WITH LIMITED FINANCIAL MEANS THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THE SCHOOL THAT BEST MEETS THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING NEEDS FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE. IT IS THE LARGEST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE IN THE UNITED STATES.

FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR, APPROVED STUDENTS COULD CHOOSE BETWEEN 4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 12,492,497. including grants of \$ 12,015,070.) (Revenue \$) THE ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND (ALOSF) IS A SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION FORMED TO IMPLEMENT THE ALABAMA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT. ALOSF AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ELIGIBLE LOW INCOME STUDENTS WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO CHILDREN WHO ARE ZONED TO ATTEND A FAILING PUBLIC SCHOOL. THE SCHOLARSHIPS PAY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION OR TRANSFER FEES TO A NON-FAILING PUBLIC SCHOOL. THE FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS WERE GRANTED FOR THE SEMESTER STARTING JANUARY 2014. ALOSF HAS AWARDED OVER 7,600 SCHOLARSHIPS OVER 3 1/2 YEARS REPRESENTING 45 OF THE 67 COUNTIES IN ALABAMA. AN ADDITIONAL 18,000 STUDENTS APPLIED BUT WERE NOT AWARDED. THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FUNDED BY DONATIONS OF INCOME TAX LIABILITY FROM INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS WHO RECEIVE AN ALABAMA STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT.

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 2,678,786. including grants of \$) (Revenue \$) THE GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT PROGRAM: IN 2016-17, STEP UP ALSO ADMINISTERED A STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS WITH ONE OF TEN SPECIFIC DISABILITIES: AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, DOWN SYNDROME, PHELAN-MCDERMID SYNDROME, PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME, SPINA BIFIDA, WILLIAMS SYNDROME, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (SEVERE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT), MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, OR "HIGH RISK" CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN. FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR, THE PROGRAM SERVED 7,598 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH AN AVERAGE OF \$10,400 EACH. THE PROGRAM EMPOWERS FAMILIES TO CHOOSE THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THAT BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENT, AND THE MONEY CAN BE FOR SCHOOLS, THERAPISTS, SPECIALISTS, CURRICULUM, TECHNOLOGY-EVEN A COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.) (Expenses \$ 5,112,954. including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses 562,199,462.

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	X	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors?</i>	X	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		X
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	X	
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		X
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		X
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		X
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		X
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		X
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>		X
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>	X	
b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>		X
c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>		X
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>	X	
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		X
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	X	
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>		X
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>	X	
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		X
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		X
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>		X
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		X
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		X
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i>		X
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		X
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		X

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		X
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>		X
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>	X	
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	X	
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i>		X
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
26 Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		X
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		X
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		X
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		X
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	X	
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>		X
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	X	
b If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		X
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19?	X	

Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Input box for Schedule O

Table with columns for question number, description, and Yes/No checkboxes. Includes sections for backup withholding, employee reporting, foreign accounts, prohibited transactions, and charitable contributions.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year; 1b Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent; 2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?; 3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?; 4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?; 5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?; 6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?; 7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?; 7b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?; 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following: a The governing body? b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?; 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O.

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?; 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?; 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?; 11b Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.; 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13; 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?; 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done; 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?; 14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?; 15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?; 15a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official; 15b Other officers or key employees of the organization; 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?; 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed FL, AR, GA, CT, AL
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. [X] Own website [] Another's website [X] Upon request [] Other (explain in Schedule O)
19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: JOE PFOUNTZ - 904-352-2246 4655 SALISBURY RD, SUITE 400, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) JOHN KIRTLEY CHAIRMAN, SUFS/DIRECTOR, A	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(2) ALISON HERTOG DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(3) ALFRED "AL" LAWSON DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(4) RICHARD OUTRAM DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(5) PAUL SHERMAN DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(6) CURTIS STOKES DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(7) TERRY JOVE DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(8) GOVERNOR BOB RILEY CHARIMAN, ALOSF	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(9) THOMAS M. LEE CHAIRMAN, ALOSF	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(10) REVEREND H.K. MATTHEWS DIRECTOR, ALOSF	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(11) JOHN H. COOPER DIRECTOR, ALOSF	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(12) CHAD FINCHER DIRECTOR, ALOSF	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(13) DOUG TUTHILL PRESIDENT, SUFS	40.00			X			263,061.	0.	30,891.	
(14) ANNE WHITE COO, SUFS/DIRECTOR, ALOSF	40.00			X			159,064.	0.	19,895.	
(15) JOE PFOUNTZ TREAS & CFO, SUFS/DIRECTOR	40.00			X			185,863.	0.	20,950.	
(16) SCOTT MASSEY CIO, SUFS	40.00					X	149,709.	0.	28,118.	
(17) ALISSA RANDALL VP MARKETING & EVENTS, SUF	40.00					X	149,397.	0.	13,836.	

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(18) JONATHAN EAST VP POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS	40.00					X		143,770.	0.	7,503.
(19) CAROL THOMAS VP STUDENT LEARNING	40.00					X		132,759.	0.	20,373.
(20) GINA LYNCH VP OPERATIONS	40.00					X		128,773.	0.	12,520.
1b Sub-total								1,312,396.	0.	154,086.
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A								0.	0.	0.
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								1,312,396.	0.	154,086.

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **15**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		X
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	X	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
EPIC SOFTWARE CORPORATION 1979 MILKY WAY, VERONA, WI 53593	SOFTWARE SERVICES	195,583.
MEENAN P.A., 300 S DUVAL ST, STE 410, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301	LEGAL SERVICES	120,002.
RSM US LLP 5155 PAYSHERE CIRCLE, CHICAGO, IL 60674	ACCOUNTING SERVICES	117,195.
CUTHBERTSON & ASSOCIATES, 9802 BAYMEADOWS RD, STE 12 #200, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256	CONSULTING SERVICES	108,185.

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **4**

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	
			Total revenue	Related or exempt function revenue	Unrelated business revenue	Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1 a Federated campaigns	1a					
	b Membership dues	1b					
	c Fundraising events	1c					
	d Related organizations	1d					
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e					
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	533,245,078.				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$						
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f		533,245,078.				
Program Service Revenue	2 a _____	Business Code					
	b _____						
	c _____						
	d _____						
	e _____						
	f All other program service revenue						
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f						
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		397,500.			397,500.	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds						
	5 Royalties						
	6 a Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
		b Less: rental expenses					
		c Rental income or (loss)					
		d Net rental income or (loss)					
	7 a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses		9,321.			
		c Gain or (loss)		-9,321.			
		d Net gain or (loss)		-9,321.			-9,321.
	8 a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a					
		b Less: direct expenses	b				
		c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events					
	9 a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a					
b Less: direct expenses		b					
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities							
10 a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a						
	b Less: cost of goods sold	b					
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11 a OTHER INCOME	900099		339.			339.	
b _____							
c _____							
d All other revenue							
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d			339.				
12 Total revenue. See instructions.			533,633,596.	0.	0.	388,518.	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX X

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	548,456,006.	548,456,006.		
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	679,724.		679,724.	
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	10,668,271.	7,954,846.	1,500,053.	1,213,372.
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	328,200.	196,038.	88,900.	43,262.
9 Other employee benefits	1,089,010.	708,574.	272,734.	107,702.
10 Payroll taxes	1,344,913.	1,065,468.	153,978.	125,467.
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal	147,539.	83,072.	61,177.	3,290.
c Accounting	117,195.		117,195.	
d Lobbying	66,809.	66,809.		
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)	1,057,489.	901,687.	102,417.	53,385.
12 Advertising and promotion	361,780.	310,601.	17,997.	33,182.
13 Office expenses	560,386.	434,161.	68,703.	57,522.
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	777,444.	562,254.	142,427.	72,763.
17 Travel	602,975.	367,017.	120,991.	114,967.
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	257,002.	191,089.	42,087.	23,826.
23 Insurance	263,040.	193,191.	44,065.	25,784.
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a OTHER COSTS	498,426.	240,215.	72,382.	185,829.
b BANK FEES	240,209.	136,617.	103,431.	161.
c PRINTING AND POSTAGE	224,101.	119,707.	52,030.	52,364.
d REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	222,263.	141,939.	53,874.	26,450.
e All other expenses SEE SCH O	70,171.	70,171.		
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	568,032,953.	562,199,462.	3,694,165.	2,139,326.
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation.				

Check here if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A)		(B)
		Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1 Cash - non-interest-bearing	49,756,813.	1	41,903,759.
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	225,000.	2	225,000.
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	464,498,513.	3	436,647,533.
	4 Accounts receivable, net	980,432.	4	1,592,791.
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instr). Complete Part II of Sch L		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	490,048.	9	579,212.
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 2,965,136.		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 1,552,144.	563,536.	10c 1,412,992.
	11 Investments - publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	26,730,180.	15	36,231,019.
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	543,244,522.	16	518,592,306.	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,610,532.	17	1,714,927.
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D	26,730,180.	21	36,231,019.
	22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D		25	
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	28,340,712.	26	37,945,946.
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets	3,924,578.	27	5,110,194.
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	510,979,232.	28	475,536,166.
	29 Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32	
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	514,903,810.	33	480,646,360.
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	543,244,522.	34	518,592,306.	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	533,633,596.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	568,032,953.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-34,399,357.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	514,903,810.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	141,907.
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	480,646,360.

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.		
2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? _____ If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		X
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? _____ If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	X	
c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? _____ If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.	X	
3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133? _____		X
b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits _____		

Form 990 (2016)

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

- The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)
- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
 - 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
 - 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
 - 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
 - 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
 - 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
 - 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
 - 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
 - 9 An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university: _____
 - 10 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions - subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
 - 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
 - 12 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations
 - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	310,799,794.	332,392,878.	456,345,377.	521,372,137.	533,245,078.	2154155264.
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge ...						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	310,799,794.	332,392,878.	456,345,377.	521,372,137.	533,245,078.	2154155264.
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						850,476,828.
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						1303678436.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	310,799,794.	332,392,878.	456,345,377.	521,372,137.	533,245,078.	2154155264.
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources ...	13,048.	12,414.	8,223.	90,396.	397,500.	521,581.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on ...						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)		1,518.	12,665.	7,046.	339.	21,568.
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						2154698413.
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	1,686,768.
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						<input type="checkbox"/>

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2016 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	60.50 %
15 Public support percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	63.47 %
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2016. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b 33 1/3% support test - 2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2016. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions		<input type="checkbox"/>

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2016 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2016 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2016. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box in line 12 on Part I. If you checked 12a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 12b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 12c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 12d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes," and if you checked 12a or 12b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).</i>		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).</i>		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer 10b below.</i>		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)</i>		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

	Yes	No
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
b A family member of a person described in (a) above?		
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.		
11a		
11b		
11c		

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.		
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.		
1		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).		
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).		
3 By reason of the relationship described in (2), did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.		
1		
2		
3		

Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).			
a <input type="checkbox"/> The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.			
b <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.			
c <input type="checkbox"/> The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions).			
2 Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) below.		Yes	No
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.			
b Did the activities described in (a) constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.			
3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) below.			
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? Provide details in Part VI.			
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.			
2a			
2b			
3a			
3b			

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1 Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (explain in Part VI.) **See instructions.** All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):		
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI):		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by .035	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount			Current Year
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1	
2	Enter 85% of line 1	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	6	
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).		

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2016

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions	Current Year
1 Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	
2 Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	
3 Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	
4 Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	
5 Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)	
6 Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions	
7 Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6	
8 Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions	
9 Distributable amount for 2016 from Section C, line 6	
10 Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2016	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2016
1 Distributable amount for 2016 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2016 (reasonable cause required- explain in Part VI). See instructions			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2016:			
a			
b			
c From 2013			
d From 2014			
e From 2015			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2016 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2011 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f.			
4 Distributions for 2016 from Section D, line 7: \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2016 distributable amount			
c Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2016, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2016. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2017. Add lines 3j and 4c			
8 Breakdown of line 7:			
a			
b Excess from 2013			
c Excess from 2014			
d Excess from 2015			
e Excess from 2016			

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2016

Schedule B

(Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Schedule of Contributors

▶ Attach to Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF.
▶ Information about Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Name of the organization

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.

Employer identification number

59-3649371

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

501(c)(3) (enter number) organization

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

527 political organization

Form 990-PF

501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000 or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h, or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I, II, and III.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year ▶ \$ _____

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF. Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) (2016)

Name of organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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Part I Contributors (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 15,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
2	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 28,500,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
3	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 21,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
4	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 65,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
5	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 150,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
6	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 20,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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Part II Noncash Property (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	
		\$ _____	
		\$ _____	
		\$ _____	
		\$ _____	
		\$ _____	
		\$ _____	

Name of organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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Part III Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of \$1,000 or less for the year. (Enter this info. once.) ▶ \$ _____
Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527

- ▶ **Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
- ▶ **Information about Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and B. Do not complete Part I-C.
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and C below. Do not complete Part I-B.
- Section 527 organizations: Complete Part I-A only.

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B.
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-B. Do not complete Part II-A.

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations: Complete Part III.

Name of organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV.
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities _____

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ▶ \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ▶ \$ _____
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? Yes No
- 4a Was a correction made? Yes No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV.

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures. Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b ▶ \$ _____
- 4 Did the filing organization file **Form 1120-POL** for this year? Yes No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments. For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds. Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization. If none, enter -0-.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ. Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2016

Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).
- B** Check if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
1a	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)	10,454.													
b	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)	56,355.													
c	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)	66,809.													
d	Other exempt purpose expenditures	567,966,144.													
e	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)	568,032,953.													
f	Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.	1,000,000.													
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th style="width: 50%;">The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.														
g	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)	250,000.													
h	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-	0.													
i	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-	0.													
j	If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No												

4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2013	(b) 2014	(c) 2015	(d) 2016	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	4,000,000.
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					6,000,000.
c Total lobbying expenditures	196,409.	55,760.	11,942.	66,809.	330,920.
d Grassroots nontaxable amount	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	1,000,000.
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					1,500,000.
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures	47,300.	55,760.	8,171.	10,454.	121,685.

Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes," response on lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
1 During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:			
a Volunteers?			
b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)? ..			
c Media advertisements?			
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
i Other activities?			
j Total. Add lines 1c through 1i			
2a Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?			
b If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
c If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
d If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	
3 Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political campaign activity expenditures from the prior year?	3	

Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No," OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

1 Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	1	
2 Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
a Current year	2a	
b Carryover from last year	2b	
c Total	2c	
3 Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3	
4 If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4	
5 Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	5	

Part IV Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4; Part I-C, line 5; Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions); and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

SCHEDULE C, PART II-A

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR AND POLICY DIRECTOR FOR STEP UP FOR STUDENTS

PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ADOPTION OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE

GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP AND TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS IN 2017, ADVISING

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE STAFF AND LEGISLATORS ON DIFFERENT POINTS ON THE

BILL. THESE LOBBYING EFFORTS ARE FINANCED BY PRIVATE FUNDRAISING AND NOT

Part IV Supplemental Information (continued)

THROUGH EITHER THE DIRECT APPROPRIATION OR TAX-CREDITED CONTRIBUTIONS

RECEIVED UNDER EACH PROGRAM. STAFFERS IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ALSO WORKED WITH

GARDINER FAMILIES AND TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FAMILIES TO PROVIDE

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY AND CONTACT LAWMAKERS TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT OF

THE BILL IN A LEGISLATIVE GRASSROOTS EFFORT.

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.**
▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

▶ **Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC. **Employer identification number** 59-3649371

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).
 Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education) Preservation of a historically important land area
 Protection of natural habitat Preservation of a certified historic structure
 Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Tax Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990. Schedule D (Form 990) 2016

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):

- a Public exhibition
- b Scholarly research
- c Preservation for future generations
- d Loan or exchange programs
- e Other _____

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

	Amount
c Beginning balance	26,730,180.
d Additions during the year	70,232,134.
e Distributions during the year	60,731,295.
f Ending balance	36,231,019.

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? Yes No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided on Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

- a Board designated or quasi-endowment %
- b Permanent endowment %
- c Temporarily restricted endowment %

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

	Yes	No
(i) unrelated organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) related organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		2,906,511.	1,523,264.	1,383,247.
e Other		58,625.	28,880.	29,745.
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)				1,412,992.

Part VII Investments - Other Securities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶		

Part VIII Investments - Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶		

Part IX Other Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR STUDENTS	36,231,019.
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	36,231,019.

Part X Other Liabilities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.) ▶	

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5

Part XIII Supplemental Information.

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

PART IV, LINE 2B:

IN JUNE 2014, LEGISLATION CREATING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

WAS SIGNED INTO LAW IN FLORIDA. A GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT IS

ESTABLISHED FOR EACH CHILD THAT IS AWARDED A SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP.

PARENTS USE THIS MONEY TO PERSONALIZE THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN WITH

UNIQUE ABILITIES BY DIRECTING MONEY TOWARDS A COMBINATION OF PROGRAMS AND

STATE APPROVED PROVIDERS. THESE INCLUDE SCHOOLS, THERAPISTS, SPECIALISTS,

CIRRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY AND COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

DURING THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016, STEP UP FOR STUDENTS

DISTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY \$58.7 MILLION AND \$29.1 MILLION, LEAVING A

BALANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$36.2 MILLION AND \$26.7 MILLION RESPECTIVELY,

Part XIII Supplemental Information (continued)

WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE ACCOMPANYING CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS BOTH AN ASSET AND A LIABILITY. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS IS ACTING AS AN AGENT FOR THIS PROGRAM, THEREFORE, THERE ARE NO REVENUES AND EXPENSES REPORTED ON THE ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

PART X, LINE 2:

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAXES UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND FROM STATE INCOME TAXES UNDER SIMILAR PROVISIONS OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES. ACCORDINGLY, NO PROVISION FOR FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES HAS BEEN RECORDED IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS HAS MADE AN ELECTION UNDER SECTION 501(H) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, WHICH PERMITS CERTAIN ELIGIBLE 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE LIMITED EXPENDITURES TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION. THESE EXPENDITURES ARE FINANCED BY PRIVATE FUNDRAISING AND NOT THROUGH EITHER THE DIRECT APPROPRIATION OR TAX-CREDITED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED UNDER EACH PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE 3% ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOWANCE EACH PROGRAM RECEIVES. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN EXCISE TAX IF IT SPENDS MORE THAN THE AMOUNTS PERMITTED. SUCH LIMITS HAVE NOT BEEN EXCEEDED.

THE ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS A SINGLE-MEMBER LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) WHICH IS WHOLLY-OWNED BY STEP UP FOR STUDENTS. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAXES UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. AS A WHOLLY-OWNED LLC, THE ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS A DISREGARDED ENTITY FOR FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX PURPOSES AND THEREFORE, REPORT ALL FEDERAL AND STATE TAX INFORMATION THROUGH ITS PARENT, STEP UP FOR STUDENTS. ACCORDINGLY, NO

Part XIII Supplemental Information (continued)

PROVISION FOR FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES HAS BEEN RECORDED IN THE
ACCOMPANYING CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWS ACCOUNTING STANDARDS RELATING TO ACCOUNTING
FOR UNCERTAINTY IN INCOME TAXES. MANAGEMENT ASSESSED WHETHER THERE WERE
ANY UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS WHICH MAY GIVE RISE TO INCOME TAX LIABILITIES
AND DETERMINED THAT THERE WERE NO SUCH MATTERS REQUIRING RECOGNITION IN
THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS FILES INCOME
TAX RETURNS IN THE U.S. FEDERAL JURISDICTION. GENERALLY, STEP UP FOR
STUDENTS IS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO U.S. FEDERAL OR STATE INCOME TAX
EXAMINATIONS BY TAX AUTHORITIES FOR YEARS BEFORE JUNE 30, 2014.

**SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

▶ **Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC. Employer identification number 59-3649371

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? **Yes** **No**
- 2** Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance

- 2** Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table
- 3** Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule I (Form 990) (2016)

Part III Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of noncash assistance
TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	97900	548,456,006.	0.		

Part IV Supplemental Information. Provide the information required in Part I, line 2; Part III, column (b); and any other additional information.

PART I, LINE 2:

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS RECEIVES GRANTS TO FUND PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES TO
EMPOWER THE FAMILIES OF OUR STUDENTS. THE GRANT EXPENSES ARE TRACKED BY
PROJECT CODE FOR EASE OF REPORTING TO OUR GRANTORS, IF APPLICABLE.

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Compensation Information

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.

▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.

Employer identification number

59-3649371

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

- 1a** Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (such as, maid, chauffeur, chef) |

b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on line 1a?

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:

- a** Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?
- b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?
- c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?
- If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.

5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

- a** The organization?
- b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

- a** The organization?
- b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

	Yes	No
1b		
2	X	
4a	X	
4b		X
4c		X
5a		X
5b		X
6a		X
6b		X
7		X
8		X
9		

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule J (Form 990) 2016

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that aren't listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note: The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
(1) DOUG TUTHILL PRESIDENT, SUFS	(i)	263,061.	0.	0.	10,652.	20,239.	293,952.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(2) ANNE WHITE COO, SUFS/DIRECTOR, ALOSF	(i)	159,064.	0.	0.	8,115.	11,780.	178,959.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(3) JOE PFOUNTZ TREAS & CFO, SUFS/DIRECTOR	(i)	185,863.	0.	0.	7,492.	13,458.	206,813.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(4) SCOTT MASSEY CIO, SUFS	(i)	149,709.	0.	0.	7,655.	20,463.	177,827.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(5) ALISSA RANDALL VP MARKETING & EVENTS, SUF	(i)	149,397.	0.	0.	7,412.	6,424.	163,233.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(6) JONATHAN EAST VP POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS	(i)	143,770.	0.	0.	7,043.	460.	151,273.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(7) CAROL THOMAS VP STUDENT LEARNING	(i)	132,759.	0.	0.	6,733.	13,640.	153,132.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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FORM 990, PART I, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

OPTIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FAMILIES WHO LACK THE
FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ACCESS THESE OPTIONS. BY PURSUING THIS MISSION,
WE HELP PUBLIC EDUCATION FULFILL THE PROMISE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

FORM 990, PART I

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND STUDY ON THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE FLORIDA TAX
CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FINDS THAT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ARE MORE
LIKELY THAN THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOL PEERS TO ATTEND COLLEGE AND EARN A
DEGREE. THE REPORT BY RESEARCHERS AT THE URBAN INSTITUTE, RELEASED IN
2017, FOUND THAT FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM FOR FOUR OR MORE YEARS ARE UP TO 43 PERCENT
MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND FLORIDA PUBLIC COLLEGE AND UP TO 29 PERCENT MORE
LIKELY TO EARN AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE. THESE ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
ACADEMIC FINDINGS IN THE PROGRAM'S 16-YEAR HISTORY.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4A, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH UP TO \$5,866 FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION AND FEES OR
UP TO \$500 IN TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO ATTEND AN OUT-OF-DISTRICT PUBLIC
SCHOOL. SINCE ITS CREATION, THE FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
HAS AWARDED 579,115 SCHOLARSHIPS. FOR 2016-17, THE AVERAGE INCOME FOR
PARTICIPANTS WAS 4.4% ABOVE THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES, AND 55% OF

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) (2016)

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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THE STUDENTS WERE FROM SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES RELEASED IN AUGUST 2016 SHOWED THAT

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS WERE ACHIEVING THE SAME GAINS IN READING AND MATH

AS STUDENTS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS NATIONALLY. BY LAW, SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS EVERY YEAR MUST TAKE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED NORM-REFERENCED

TEST APPROVED BY THE STATE AND MOST TAKE THE WELL-REGARDED STANFORD

ACHIEVEMENT TEST. THE RESULTS REPORTED IN 2016 TRACKED CLOSELY WITH

RESULTS IN PRIOR YEARS AND THE RESEARCHER ISSUED TWO KEY FINDINGS:

-STUDENTS WHO CHOSE THE SCHOLARSHIP WERE AMONG THE POOREST AND

LOWEST-PERFORMING STUDENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THEY LEFT BEHIND.

-THESE SAME STUDENTS ACHIEVED GAINS IN READING AND MATH THAT WERE THE

SAME AS ALL STUDENTS NATIONALLY, REGARDLESS OF INCOME LEVEL.

FOR THE 12TH TIME, STEP UP FOR STUDENTS WAS AWARDED THE COVETED

FOUR-STAR RATING BY CHARITY NAVIGATOR AND SCORED A PERFECT 100.0 ON THE

NAVIGATOR'S SCALE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY. IN

OTHER PUBLISHED NATIONAL RANKINGS OF NONPROFITS, STEP UP HAS BEEN

RANKED 24TH BY FORBES AND 48TH BY THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4D, OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES:

RESEARCH ON STUDENT OUTCOMES:

EACH TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A LOW-INCOME OR

WORKING-CLASS STUDENT IN FLORIDA WITH A VIABLE LEARNING OPTION THAT CAN

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HIS OR HER EDUCATIONAL LIFE. TOWARD THAT

OBJECTIVE, STEP UP IS BUILDING TOOLS TO ASSESS ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN A

ROBUST WAY. THE STATE ALREADY COLLECTS STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES EVERY

YEAR FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-10 AND IN ITS MOST RECENT REPORT

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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DETERMINED THAT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ACHIEVED THE SAME ACADEMIC GAINS
 IN READING AND MATH AS STUDENTS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS NATIONALLY. STEP
 UP IS GOING FURTHER. IT HAS COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE OF A DATA
 WAREHOUSE THAT PULLS TOGETHER STUDENT ACADEMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC
 INFORMATION ACROSS 15 YEARS. IN 2016-17, STEP UP POLICY ANALYSTS WORKED
 WITH A PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL THINK TANK TO EVALUATE HOW MANY STUDENTS
 GRADUATED AND ATTENDED POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS AND IS EXPECTING THAT
 STUDY TO BE RELEASED BY THE END OF 2017.
 EXPENSES \$ 5,112,954. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 0.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B:
 FORM 990 IS PREPARED BY THE FUND'S INDEPENDENT AUDITORS AFTER BEING
 REVIEWED BY MANAGEMENT, THE FULL FORM 990 INFORMATIONAL RETURN IS PROVIDED
 TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS
 ALSO AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE FORM 990
 BEFORE THE RETURN IS FILED.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C:
 STEP UP FOR STUDENTS ENSURES THAT THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY IS
 ADHERED TO WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES 1) REGULAR EDUCATION WITH THE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND KEY STAFF. EACH YEAR, THE POLICY IS
 REVIEWED WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE TEAM. EACH
 ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIANCE BY SIGNING AN ANNUAL
 COMPLIANCE STATEMENT. 2) THE CFO REVIEWS EACH CONTRACT THE ORGANIZATION
 ENTERS. 3) FINANCE STAFF AND THE PRESIDENT REVIEW ALL PAYMENTS AS THEY ARE
 MADE FOR POSSIBLE CONFLICTS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15:
 632212 08-25-16 Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) (2016)

Name of the organization STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number 59-3649371
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THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEWS COMPARABLE
 COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS DATA OF SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS. DURING FISCAL YEAR
 2011, AN INDEPENDENT COMPENSATION CONSULTING FIRM CONDUCTED A FULL
 COMPARATIVE STUDY FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE POSITION AND ALL
 NON-EXECUTIVE JOB GRADES. THE COMMITTEE USES THIS INFORMATION, COMBINED
 WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PRESIDENT, TO RECOMMEND THE PRESIDENT'S
 COMPENSATION PACKAGE FOR APPROVAL OF THE FULL BOARD. THE FULL BOARD
 APPROVES THE PACKAGE.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19:
 STEP UP FOR STUDENTS MAKES ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST
 POLICY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE,
 WWW.STEPUFORSTUDENTS.ORG. PRINTED COPIES ARE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST FOR THE
 SAME PERIOD OF DISCLOSURE AS SET FORTH IN IRC SECTION 6104(D).

FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 24E, ALL OTHER FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES:

UNCOLLECTIBLE SCHOOL RECEIVABLES:

PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES	70,171.
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES	0.
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	0.
TOTAL EXPENSES	70,171.
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES ON FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 24E, COL A	70,171.

FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C:
 THIS PROCESS HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE PRIOR YEAR.

**SCHEDULE R
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.
▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization **STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.** Employer identification number **59-3649371**

Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity
THE ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND - 49-3813722, 2101 MAGNOLIA AVE S, STE 425, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205	SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING	ALABAMA	9,366,645.	2,727,779.	STEP UP FOR STUDENTS

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule R (Form 990) 2016

Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	

Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No

Part V Transactions With Related Organizations. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.

Note: Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule.

	Yes	No
1 During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?		
a Receipt of (i) interest, (ii) annuities, (iii) royalties, or (iv) rent from a controlled entity	1a	
b Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)	1b	
c Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)	1c	
d Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)	1d	
e Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)	1e	
f Dividends from related organization(s)	1f	
g Sale of assets to related organization(s)	1g	
h Purchase of assets from related organization(s)	1h	
i Exchange of assets with related organization(s)	1i	
j Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)	1j	
k Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)	1k	
l Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)	1l	
m Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)	1m	
n Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)	1n	
o Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)	1o	
p Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses	1p	
q Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses	1q	
r Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)	1r	
s Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)	1s	

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds.

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1)			
(2)			
(3)			
(4)			
(5)			
(6)			

Part VII Supplemental Information.

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R. See instructions.

Lined area for providing supplemental information.