



**2021 -2022 SFO Renewal Application**



August 24, 2020

Mr. Richard Corcoran  
Commissioner of Education  
Office of the Commissioner  
Turlington Building, Suite 1514  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Commissioner Corcoran:

We respectfully submit our application to serve as a Scholarship Funding Organization in 2021-22 under ss. 1002.395, 1002.394, 1002.385, 1002.40, and 1002.411, Florida Statutes, and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Step Up For Students served over 107,800 of Florida's most economically disadvantaged students on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program last year. The average household income was only 12 percent above poverty, and more than two-thirds of the students were black or Hispanic and more than half lived with a single parent or guardian. The department's researcher has reported that these students were the lowest academic achievers from the public schools they left behind and that they are continuing to achieve the same annual standardized test score gains as students of all income levels nationally.

This past year, Step Up was able to serve 13,046 students with unique abilities on the Gardiner Scholarship Program and is projecting to serve over 17,000 students in the current year.

Your department should take pride in the breadth of learning options that Florida and its school districts provide to parents. We are dedicated to assuring that the FTC Scholarship Program, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, Gardiner Scholarship Program, Hope Scholarship Program, and Reading Scholarship Accounts, are administered faithfully and transparently. We welcome your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Tuthill".

Doug Tuthill  
President

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[www.stepupforstudents.org](http://www.stepupforstudents.org)

**ST. PETERSBURG OFFICE • 1901 Ulmerton Road, Suite 180, Clearwater, FL 33762 • 813.258.2700**  
**JACKSONVILLE OFFICE • 4655 Salisbury Road, Suite 400, Jacksonville, FL 32256 • 904.247.6033**

**Step Up For Students  
Participation Renewal For Scholarship Funding Organization  
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**NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION**  
**PARTICIPATION RENEWAL**



If your nonprofit charitable organization desires to participate, please complete this form and submit it to the **Department of Education** with information as requested below. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at: Telephone **(850) 245-0502** or FAX **(850) 245-0875** or by mail to: 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1044, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400.

**SUBMIT BY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION**

Step Up For Students, Inc

*(Name of Organization)*

Joe Pfountz

jpgfountz@sufs.org

904-352-2246

*(Principal Contact)*

*(E-mail)*

*(Phone)*

*(Fax)*

4655 Salisbury Rd

*(Mailing Address)*

Suite 400

*(Mailing Address Cont.)*

Jacksonville

32256

*(City)*

*(Zip Code)*

Doug Tuthill

*(Name of Principal Officer or Legal Representative)*

**CHARITABLE SFO ASSURANCES / VERIFICATION**

**WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ORGANIZATION? (Circle one)**

Municipal (serving one city or county)

Regional

Statewide

**WHICH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM(S) DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION PLAN TO ADMINISTER?**

- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program
- Gardiner Scholarship Program
- Hope Scholarship Program
- Reading Scholarship Program
- Family Empowerment Scholarship Program

**TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN ELIGIBLE SFO, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:**

- A signed IEPC SFO-2 form
- A copy of your IRS Determination Letter as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization
- A copy of your organization's incorporation and registration with the Florida Division of Corporations,

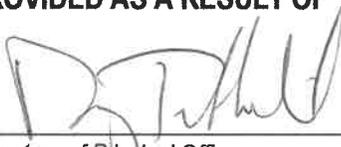
Office of the Secretary of State

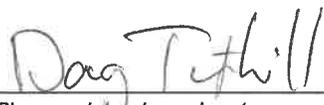
- Level 2 criminal background screening results for owners and operators
- A description of your organization's financial plan that demonstrates sufficient funds to operate throughout the school year
- A description of the geographic region that the organization intends to serve and an analysis of the demand and unmet need for eligibly students in that area
- The organization's organizational chart
- A description of the criteria and methodology that the organization will use to evaluate scholarship eligibility
- A description of the application process, including deadlines and any associated fees
- A description of the deadlines for attendance verification and scholarship payments
- A copy of the organization's policies on conflict of interest and whistleblowers
- A surety bond or letter of credit in an amount equal to the amount of the undisbursed donations held by the organization based on the annual report provided to the Auditor General and the Department of Education and conducted by an independent certified public accountant (s.1002.395(6)(m), F.S.). The amount of the surety bond or letter of credit must be at least \$100,000.00, but no more than \$25 million
- The organization's completed IRS Form 990 (due no later than November 30)
- A copy of the statutorily required audit to the Department of Education and Auditor General
- An annual report that includes the number of students who completed applications, by county and by grade, the number of students who were approved for scholarships, by county and by grade, and the number of students who received funding for scholarships within each category, by county and by grade, as well as the amount of funds received, the amount of funds distributed in scholarships, and an accounting of remaining funds and the obligations of those funds
- A detailed accounting of how the organization spent the administrative funds, *if applicable*

**PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

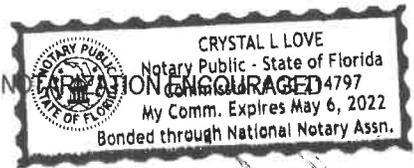
- I have read and agree to comply with Florida Administrative Code 6A-6.0960 related to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program
- I have read and agree to comply with Florida Statutes Section 1002.385, Section 1002.395, Section 1002.40 and Section 1002.411, if applicable
- I will notify the Department of Education within 7 days if personal or corporate bankruptcy is filed within the next year
- I have not filed for personal or corporate bankruptcy in a corporation of which I owned more than 20 percent in the last 7 years

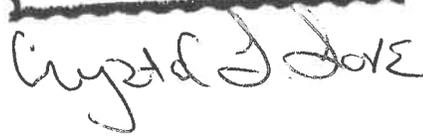
**I HEREBY ATTEST THAT AS THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF THE ABOVE NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION ALL OF THE DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED AND INFORMATION PROVIDED AS A RESULT OF THIS FORM IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Principal Officer

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please print or type signature name

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



 8/26/2020<sup>2</sup>

**FOR DOE PURPOSES ONLY:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SFO Notified: \_\_\_\_\_ DOR Notified: \_\_\_\_\_ DABT Notified: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Section 1002.395, F.S., requires the Department of Education to annually notify the Department of Revenue and the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation with a list of eligible Scholarship Funding Organizations by March 15<sup>th</sup>.*

# N0000000/090

Wilson W. Wright  
Requestor's Name

217 South Adams Street  
Address

Tallahassee, FL 32301 224-5169  
City/State/Zip Phone #

Office Use Only

00 FEB 18 AM 10:11

SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

APPROVED  
AND  
FILED

**CORPORATION NAME(S) & DOCUMENT NUMBER(S), (if known):**

1. The National Education Development Fund, Incorporated  
(Corporation Name) (Document #)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Corporation Name) (Document #)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Corporation Name) (Document #)
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Corporation Name) (Document #)

- Walk in       Pick up time \_\_\_\_\_       Certified Copy
- Mail out       Will wait       Photocopy       Certificate of Status

NEW FILINGS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NonProfit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited Liability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

AMENDMENTS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resignation of R.A., Officer/ Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change of Registered Agent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dissolution/Withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Merger

OTHER FILINGS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fictitious Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Reservation

REGISTRATION/ QUALIFICATION	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited Partnership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trademark
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

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\*\*\*\*\*78.75 \*\*\*\*\*78.75

*will wait*

*2-18-00 7-3*

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
THE NATIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND, INCORPORATED**

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the corporation shall be:  
**THE NATIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND, INCORPORATED**

SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

00 FEB 18 AM 10:11

APPROVED  
AND  
FILED

ARTICLE II PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal place of business and mailing address of this corporation shall be:

601 North Ashley Drive, Suite 500  
Tampa, Florida 33602

ARTICLE III PURPOSE(S)

The corporation shall be a not-for-profit entity and no economic benefit shall accrue to any member of this corporation. The corporation is being formed for the purpose of providing economic and other assistance (usually acting as an intermediary) to private schools (as opposed to public schools operated by a school system) which carry out their educational missions from physical facilities located in inner city areas of municipalities located throughout the United States and which are also, in large part, not-for-profit institutions.

ARTICLE IV MANNER OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The corporation's affairs and its assets shall be carried out and maintained by a Board of Directors having not less than one nor more than seven members. The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually in January of each year by the majority vote of the members of the corporation, each member being entitled to one vote. Cumulative voting shall not be permitted in the election of directors. Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled, until the next election of directors, by appointment by virtue of majority action of the then members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors of the corporation need not be members of the corporation.

ARTICLE V INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND STREET ADDRESS

The name and Florida street address of the initial registered agent are:

WILLIAM T. KIRTLEY, Esq.  
2940 South Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida 34239

ARTICLE VI INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the Incorporator to these Articles of Incorporation are:

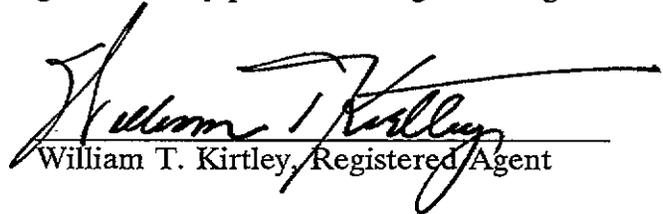
WILLIAM T. KIRTLEY, Esq.  
2940 South Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida 34239

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, these Articles of Incorporation have been executed as of the 16th day of February, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William T. Kirtley, Incorporator

Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent.

Dated: February 16, 2000

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William T. Kirtley, Registered Agent



[Department of State](#) / [Division of Corporations](#) / [Search Records](#) / [Return to Detail Screen](#) /

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## Events

### STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.

**Document Number** N00000001090  
**Date Filed** 02/18/2000  
**Effective Date** None  
**Status** Active

Event Type	Filed Date	Effective Date	Description
AMENDMENT AND NAME CHANGE	01/06/2011		OLD NAME WAS : THE FLORIDA SCHOOL CHOICE FUND, INCORPORATED
AMENDMENT AND NAME CHANGE	06/01/2000		OLD NAME WAS : THE NATIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND, INCORPORATED

[Return to Detail Screen](#)

# *State of Florida*

## *Department of State*

I certify from the records of this office that STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on February 18, 2000.

The document number of this corporation is N00000001090.

I further certify that said corporation has paid all fees due this office through December 31, 2020, that its most recent annual report/uniform business report was filed on March 18, 2020, and that its status is active.

I further certify that said corporation has not filed Articles of Dissolution.

*Given under my hand and the  
Great Seal of the State of Florida  
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this  
the Eighteenth day of August,  
2020*



*Ronald R. DeSantis*  
Secretary of State

Tracking Number: 5889172945CU

To authenticate this certificate, visit the following site, enter this number, and then follow the instructions displayed.

<https://services.sunbiz.org/Filings/CertificateOfStatus/CertificateAuthentication>



P.O. Box 2508, Room 4010  
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 4077556534  
Aug. 12, 2011 LTR 4168C 0  
59-3649371 000000 00

00025515  
BODC: TE

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS INC  
% JOHN F KIRTLEY  
337 S PLANT AVE  
TAMPA FL 33606-2325

008932

Employer Identification Number: 59-3649371  
Person to Contact: SHARON LENARD  
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your July 18, 2011, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in July 2000.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Please refer to our website [www.irs.gov/eo](http://www.irs.gov/eo) for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

4077556534  
Aug. 12, 2011 LTR 4168C 0  
59-3649371 000000 00  
00025516

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS INC  
% JOHN F KIRTLEY  
337 S PLANT AVE  
TAMPA FL 33606-2325

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Cindy Thomas  
Manager, EO Determinations

## **Step Up For Students**

### **Level 2 criminal background screening results for owners and operators**

The background screenings for all owners and operators are satisfactory and are on file with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Step Up For Students' officers are Doug Tuthill, Joe Pfountz, Gina Lynch, Lesley Searcy and Anne White.

**Step Up For Students, Florida Only**  
**3 Year Plan - Income Statement by Category**

Each Year, Step Up For Students prepares a detailed three year projection of its revenues and expenses. The income statement for the SFO application year is highlighted. Each year's budget targets a net operating margin between 1 - 4% and provides for capital investment to support future growth and stability of the programs.

The senior leadership team participates in the budgeting process and the board of directors reviews and approves the budgets before the beginning of each fiscal year. Monthly financial results are published and shared with the senior leadership team and board of directors, allowing for timely corrective action when needed. Additionally, to prepare for the unknown and to account for potential risk, a contingency budget is captured within the budget process, and unforeseen expenditures are managed through this budget item. The contingency is reflected in the 'other' line item.

Our revenue sources include administrative allowance from the FTC, FES, Gardiner, Hope and Reading programs. Each program's revenue and expenses are accounted for separately in the general ledger via fund accounting, and separate bank accounts are maintained for each program's scholarship funds. For all programs we recognize an administrative allowance of 3% of all scholarship awarded, with the exception of FES where we recognize 1%. These administrative allowances are used to fund operating expenses related to administering the programs which include application and reimbursement processing costs. Additionally, we have planned grant income which provides funding for additional advocacy initiatives that will help to broaden awareness of the program. The last revenue source is included in 'other income', and is related to our philanthropic efforts, where we plan to fundraise non-tax credit donations which can be used on expenditures that further the mission of the organization.

<b>Fundraising Cap</b>	<b>\$874M</b>	<b>\$874M</b>	<b>\$874M</b>
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<i>12 Months ending June 30,</i> <b>Operating Revenues</b>	<b>2021 Operating Budget</b>	<b>2022 Annual Plan</b>	<b>2023 Annual Plan</b>
Florida Tax Credit Administrative Allowance	22,299,831	23,414,823	24,585,564
Gardiner Administrative Allowance	5,371,500	6,177,225	7,103,809
Grants	365,298	182,649	91,325
FES	1,931,160	2,896,740	4,345,110
Hope Scholarship	113,801	130,871	150,502
Reading	97,950	112,643	129,539
Other Income	2,293,410	2,408,081	2,528,485
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$32,472,950</b>	<b>\$35,323,031</b>	<b>\$38,934,332</b>

<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2020 Operating Budget</b>	<b>2021 Annual Plan</b>	<b>2022 Annual Plan</b>
Salaries, wages and benefits	20,585,109	22,643,620	24,907,982
Occupancy	1,024,135	716,895	738,401
Insurance	309,133	318,407	327,959
Voice and data	1,659,733	1,709,525	1,760,811
Travel	642,109	706,320	776,952
Cellular Phone	116,452	119,946	123,544
Dues, Fees & Subscriptions	1,356,908	1,397,615	1,439,544
Professional Services	716,947	738,455	760,609
Marketing/Advertising	434,602	447,640	461,069
Contract Services	1,611,696	1,660,047	1,709,848
Equipment	33,775	34,788	35,832
Postage & Delivery	187,064	192,676	198,456
Printing & Reproduction	167,530	172,556	177,733
Conferences & Seminars	233,185	240,181	247,386
Training	85,273	87,831	90,466
Employee Recruitment	38,267	39,415	40,597
Sponsorship/Tradeshows	124,296	136,726	150,398
Bank Fees	330,000	339,900	350,097
Supplies	1,037,420	244,543	251,879
Depreciation	922,311	1,014,542	1,115,996
Other	634,904	950,000	1,695,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$32,250,849</b>	<b>\$33,911,627</b>	<b>\$37,360,560</b>

<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$222,101</b>	<b>\$1,411,404</b>	<b>\$1,573,772</b>
<b>Net Income % of Revenue</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

<b>Capital expenditure</b>	<b>\$785,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
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**Step Up For Students  
Operational Cash Flow 2022 Plan**

The financial planning process includes operational cashflow projections. Cash on hand is approximately 96 days of expenses at June 30, 2022.

No. of Days Operating Cash on Hand at June 30, 2022	81
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<b>Operating Cash at July 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$10,488,177</b>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	
Tax Credit Allowance	23,545,694
ESA Allowance	6,289,868
FES Allowance	2,896,740
Grants	182,649
Other Income	2,408,081
<b>Net Cash Received From Revenue</b>	<b>35,323,031</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Departmental Operating Expenses	32,897,084
Capital Expenditure	2,000,000
<b>Net Cash For Operating Expenses</b>	<b>34,897,084</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)</b>	<b>425,946</b>
<b>Operating Cash At June 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$10,914,123</b>

**Step Up For Students**

**SCHOLARSHIP CASH FLOW 2022 Plan**

Scholarship cash flow is also projected during the planning process. During the 2021 - 2022 school year, Step Up For Students will serve approximately 102,000 students between the FTC and Hope programs. To determine the amount of total scholarship payments for the year, Step Up balances the desire to maximize scholarship payments with the uncertainty associated with estimating the actual number of students that will take advantage of their scholarship awards and the need to reserve enough funds to make the following year's first scholarship payment. As a safeguard to ensure sufficient scholarship cash is available, Step Up For Students maintains a \$60 million line of credit which can be used to bridge any gap between scholarship commitments and available funds.

	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	2022 Total
<b>Opening Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$70,275</b>	<b>\$119,788</b>	<b>\$176,782</b>	<b>\$47,039</b>	<b>\$104,086</b>	<b>\$181,856</b>	<b>\$119,352</b>	<b>\$187,223</b>	<b>\$63,305</b>	<b>\$110,596</b>	<b>\$180,682</b>	<b>\$37,953</b>	<b>\$70,275</b>
Gross Donations	51,589	59,090	51,305	60,001	80,597	116,750	70,483	49,727	49,765	73,340	29,575	32,753	724,976
Florida Admin Allowance	(2,076)	(2,095)	(3,921)	(2,955)	(2,827)	(5,140)	(2,612)	(2,386)	(2,474)	(3,254)	(1,496)	(1,496)	(32,732)
<b>Net Donations</b>	<b>49,513</b>	<b>56,995</b>	<b>47,384</b>	<b>57,046</b>	<b>77,770</b>	<b>111,610</b>	<b>67,871</b>	<b>47,341</b>	<b>47,292</b>	<b>70,086</b>	<b>28,079</b>	<b>31,257</b>	<b>692,244</b>
Scholarship Payments	-	-	(177,127)	-	-	(174,114)	-	(171,260)	-	-	(170,809)	-	(693,310)
Payments Received from Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Line of Credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at end of month<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$119,788</b>	<b>\$176,782</b>	<b>\$47,039</b>	<b>\$104,086</b>	<b>\$181,856</b>	<b>\$119,352</b>	<b>\$187,223</b>	<b>\$63,305</b>	<b>\$110,596</b>	<b>\$180,682</b>	<b>\$37,953</b>	<b>\$69,209</b>	<b>\$69,209</b>

**Additional Information:**

<sup>1</sup> SUFS maintains a \$60 million line of credit to cover any shortfalls.

## **Step Up For Students**

### **The geographic region served and an analysis of the demand and unmet need for eligible students in that area**

Step Up For Students intends to continue serving Florida students statewide in any of the 67 counties in 2021-22. Step Up operates statewide and has seen a growing demand for scholarships which has been evidenced by an increasing number of applications each year.

In 2014-15, 120,215 students started applications, and Step Up was only able to award 75,859 students with Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarships before the application season closed due to overwhelming demand. This means that 37 percent of students who tried to apply were unable to be awarded with scholarships.

In 2015-16, 125,115 students started applications, and Step Up was able to award 91,575 students with FTC scholarships before the application season closed. This resulted in a 10 percent decline from the previous year, where only 27 percent of students that started an application were not awarded a scholarship.

In 2016-17, 166,189 students started applications, and Step Up was only able to award 122,013 students with FTC scholarships before the application season closed. This meant that 27 percent of students who tried to apply were unable to receive scholarships.

In 2017-18, 179,388 students started applications, and Step Up was only able to award 121,949 students with FTC scholarships before the application season closed. This resulted in 32 percent of students who started an application and were not awarded with a scholarship.

In 2018-19, there were 170,063 students who started applications, and Step Up was able to fund 99,727 students with FTC scholarships. There was a wait list since 41 percent of students who started to apply were not able to be awarded with a scholarship.

In 2019-20, Step Up saw unprecedented demand again. We had a change in the scholarship applications, and there was a single application for both the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (FES). Step Up was able to fund 107,809 students through the FTC program, and approximately 18,000 students were funded through the FES program.

Even with the uncertainty of the pandemic for the 2020-21 school year, Step Up continues to see statewide demand for both the Florida Tax Credit and Family Empowerment Scholarship programs. As of 8/27/20, there were 170,350 students on applications started, with over 89,000 students already enrolled on the FTC program and 31,284 students who have enrolled for the FES program by the Department.

This data continues to demonstrate the unmet needs of eligible students statewide who would like to participate in the income-based scholarship programs.

# Step Up For Students Organization Chart

At August 1, 2020, 224 permanent staff worked for Step Up For Students.

Board of Directors

*President*  
**Doug Tuthill**

*Chief External Relations Officer*  
**Lesley Searcy**

Development

Responsibilities:

- Tax Credit fundraising
- Donor relationships
- Department of Revenue coordination
- Philanthropic fundraising

Policy and Public Affairs

Responsibilities:

- Research & Policy development
- Communications
- Legislative & Regulatory issues
- Community relationships

Office of Student Learning

Responsibilities:

- Process development to assist school with collaborative partnerships aimed towards student success.

Other

Responsibilities:

- Alabama Program Management

*Chief Operating Officer*  
**Gina Lynch**

Operations

Responsibilities:

- Evaluation of applications and scholarship awards
- FTC/Gardiner Scholarship Operations
- Customer service
- Process improvement

Marketing

Responsibilities:

- Scholarship promotion & outreach
- Donor events
- Public relations

*Chief Financial Officer*  
**Joe Pfountz**

Responsibilities:

- Financial record keeping, planning & strategy
- Donation receipt & scholarship payments
- Internal controls & Risk Management
- Treasury and Risk
- Purchasing
- HR
- Professional Development
- Compliance

*Chief Information Officer*  
**Jonathan Beckham**

Responsibilities:

- Development of customized application, scholarship processing, and learning exchange software
- Data Security

*VP of Leadership Development*  
**Jill LaRose**

Responsibilities:

- Development of organizational leadership

## Criteria and Methodology used to Evaluate Scholarship Eligibility

**The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** is offered for low-income Florida students in grades K-12. Applications are processed in the order they are received, including all supporting documentation. Scholarships are awarded with a priority given to renewal families followed by new families with the greatest financial need.

Students who qualify receive financial assistance toward either private school tuition and fees or transportation to a public school that is not the public school the student is zoned to attend.

### **Eligibility/Priority Criteria:**

#### Age Eligibility:

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept. 1.

Students entering first grade must be 6 on or before Sept.1.

#### Income Eligibility:

- If the student is on the direct certification list
- If the student's household income level does not exceed 260 percent of the federal poverty level
- If the student or a member of the student's household receives SNAP, TANF or FDPIR
- If the student is currently placed or during the previous fiscal year was placed in foster care or out-of-home care

#### Priority:

Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to renewal families followed by new families with the greatest financial need.

Priority is as follows:

- Renewal families
- New applicants with a household income that is at or under 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who are in foster care or out-of-home care
- New applicants with a household income over 185 percent of the federal poverty level

### **Methodology for Evaluating Income Eligibility:**

#### **Direct Certification**

Direct certification is the process by which the SFO certifies children who are members of households receiving assistance under SNAP, based on information provided electronically by the State/ local agency administering those programs.

Eligibility is extended to all children in a household if one member has been directly certified as eligible under the Assistance Programs. These children are also considered directly certified.

Because of year-long duration of eligibility, households are not required to report changes in their categorical eligibility status.

- The Step Up For Students online application, at the time the applicant completes the application, submits a bundle of data to the SNAP database housed at the Department of Education, and returns a YES or NO if a student on the application is found to be in the SNAP database.
- Applications that are directly certified as receiving SNAP do not require any additional income validating documentation.

### **Receipt of SNAP, TANF or FDPIR**

Demonstration of any member of the household receiving one of these benefit services from the State of Florida.

Validating documentation is the most recent document from the SNAP, TANF or FDPIR agency showing the names of the household members, the address and the valid date of the benefit.

### **Determination by income**

For the 2020-21 school year income eligibility was based on total gross household income, annualized by the frequency of receipt of the different sources of income. Income validation may include one or more of the documents listed as Income Validation Documents on the attached *Acceptable Document Listing* found at the end of this document.

Questions regarding different sources of income are listed on the application, and validating documentation varies depending on the income source. Please see the attached *Acceptable Document Listing*.

Members of the family unit are identified on the application along with the type and amount of income for each member.

Household income calculation are based on gross income. Gross income is defined as the full amount of pay before taxes or other deductions and includes:

- Gross wages or salary
- Tips
- Commissions
- Incentives, bonuses and/or overtime that is regular and recurring
- Holiday, vacation, PTO and/or sick pay
- Medical, dental and/or vision benefits paid directly to the employee
- Per diem pay
- Housing allowance

If the total annualized income for all adult members of the economic unit are less than or equal to the approved income cap guidelines for a household of that size (see Eligibility chart below), the family is considered to be income eligible. After being determined eligible, the student will be awarded a scholarship in the priority order outlined in statute.

## **Other sources of categorical income eligibility**

### **Foster or out-of-home care**

A student who is/was placed at any time in foster care or out-of-home care during the current OR previous state fiscal year may be eligible.

A child in foster care is defined by the following:

“Foster care” means care provided a child in a foster family or boarding home, group home, agency boarding home, child care institution, or any combination thereof, as defined by s. 39.01(30).

A child in out-of-home care placement is defined by the following:

“Out-of-home” means a placement outside of the home of the parents or a parent, as defined by s. 39.01(55).

“Out-of-Home Care” means the placement of a child in licensed and non-licensed settings, arranged and supervised by the department or contracted service provider, outside of the home of the parent, as defined by DCF Rule: 65C-30.001 Definitions. (18).

These students may apply at any time during the school year and will receive a scholarship as long as funds are available. In order to apply after the regular application processing season closes applicants are directed to call our hotline at 877-735-7837 for assistance.

Acceptable validating documentation for these students is:

- a copy of the official state placement papers
- a copy of the current Foster Care license
- a copy of the court documents demonstrating placement of the child with a relative caregiver

Additionally, children who are indicated as part of the Migrant Education Program (MEP), who are under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, who are identified as homeless and residing with another household are considered to be categorically income eligible .

**Eligibility Chart:** If the household income is at or below the following criteria, the student may be eligible for a scholarship:

<b>FTC Scholarship Income Guidelines</b>	
<b>2020-2021 School Year</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual Maximum Gross Income for a 100% Scholarship</b>
1	\$ 33,176
2	\$ 44,824
3	\$ 56,472
4	\$ 68,120
5	\$ 79,768
6	\$ 91,416
7	\$ 103,064
8	\$ 114,712
9	\$ 126,360
10	\$ 138,008
11	\$ 149,656
12	\$ 161,304
13	\$ 172,952
Each additional member + \$11,648	

Students must have a birth date of **NO LATER THAN**  
September 1, 2015 (K5) or 2014 (1st) to be eligible.

Based on poverty guidelines published by the Department of Health & Human Services in National Registry on January 15, 2020

**Priority Chart:** If the household income of a new student is more than the income criteria on the chart below (185%) the student, while eligible, will be placed on a waiting list until all renewal families and new families whose income is below the amounts listed on this chart have received funding.

<b>FTC Scholarship Income Guidelines</b>	
<b>2020-2021 School Year</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual Maximum Gross Income for Priority Funding (185%)</b>
1	\$ 23,606
2	\$ 31,894
3	\$ 40,182
4	\$ 48,470
5	\$ 56,758
6	\$ 65,046
7	\$ 73,334
8	\$ 81,622
9	\$ 89,910
10	\$ 98,198
11	\$ 106,486
12	\$ 114,774
13	\$ 123,062
	Each additional member +\$8,288
<p>Students must have a birth date of <b>NO LATER THAN</b> September 1, 2015 (K5) or 2014 (1st) to be eligible.</p>	
<p>Based on guidelines published by the Department of Health &amp; Human Services in National Registry on January 15, 2020</p>	

# ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENT LISTING

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY VALIDATION DOCUMENTS

For Kindergarten:

Birth Certificate or passport showing that the student was at least five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>

For 1<sup>st</sup> grade:

Birth Certificate or passport showing that the student was at least six years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION VALIDATION DOCUMENTS

### ADULT MEMBERS

*(Current showing the name and address of the adult)*

One of the following:

Current SSI statement

Current VA statement

Current SNAP statement

Current TANF

Section 8/HUD lease

Mortgage / deed / residential lease

Pay stubs with address

Medical or health care benefit or reenrollment statement

Current homeowner or renter's insurance

Utility bill (water / electric; no more than 2 months old)

Medicaid documents

Health benefit statement

### MINORS (Current showing name and address of minor)

Current SSI statement

Current SNAP statement

Current TANF

Medicaid statement

Medical or health care benefit or reenrollment statement

Public school transcripts or report card with child's name and address listed

Official court custody documents showing child's name and custodial parent's name listed

Florida KidCare

Medical benefit statement

<b>INCOME VALIDATION DOCUMENTS</b>
#1025-SEP / Separation
#1055-CW / Cash Wages
Adoption Benefits Verification
Current Bank Statements
Current Child Support Documentation (myfloridacounty.com print out)
Current SNAP/TANF/Food and Distribution Program on Indian Reservation statement
Personal Income Documentation for a Child in Foster Care
Housing / Clothing Allowance Verification
IRS Form 1099 for SSI OR VA OR Pension ONLY
LES (Leave & Earning Statement)
Current Pay Stubs
Current Profit and Loss Statement (Self-Employment ONLY)
SSI Dependent Statement
SSI Statement
SSI Supplement Statement
Prior Year Tax Return (Self-Employment or appeal)
Tax Schedules (Self-Employment or appeal)
Unemployment Statement or Paystubs
VA Statement

## **Gardiner Scholarship**

The Gardiner Scholarship is available to students residing in Florida, ages 3 to 22 with the following diagnoses:

- Anaphylaxis
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cerebral palsy
- Deaf
- Down syndrome
- Dual Sensory Impaired
- High-Risk Child
  - This diagnosis is specifically indicated for scholarship recipients 3-5 years old
- Hospital or Homebound
- Intellectual Disability
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Rare Diseases
  - As defined by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
- Spina bifida
- Traumatic Brain Injured
- Visually Impaired
- Williams syndrome

Validation of the student's diagnosis is required and must come from a Florida physician or psychologist or a physician who holds an active license issued by another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico OR by an IEP written in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education or with the rules of another state. A current IEP is required to demonstrate a dual sensory impaired or a hospital or homebound diagnosis.

Students must be at least 3 or 4 on or before Sept 1. Students entering kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept 1. Students entering first grade must be 6 on or before Sept 1.

Students can participate in the Gardiner Scholarship program as part of home education. However, they cannot be enrolled in a public school or receive any other state-sponsored scholarship (McKay Scholarship or the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship).

Policy exceptions follow Step Up For Student's documented exception process.

## **Hope Scholarship Program**

In 2018, the Florida Legislature created the Hope Scholarship Program to give public school children in Florida relief from bullying and violence. The Hope Scholarship Program gives parents the opportunity to transfer their child to another K-12 public school with available capacity within the school district, receive a scholarship to transport the student to a public school in another school district, or to request a scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

Pursuant to s. 1002.40, F.S., a qualifying incident must have taken place at a public K-12 educational institution, any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity, riding on the school bus or waiting at the school bus stop. Qualifying incidents include battery; harassment; hazing; bullying; kidnapping; physical attack; robbery; sexual offenses, harassment, assault or battery; threat or intimidation; or fighting at school as defined by the Florida Department of Education in accordance with s. 1006.09(6).

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, once a parent or child submits a report of an incident, the school principal, or his/her designee, will provide a copy of the report to the parent and investigate the incident. Once the investigation is complete, or within 15 days after the incident was reported, whichever occurs first, the principal, or his/her designee, will notify the parent about the Hope Scholarship Program, and provide the Hope Scholarship Notification Form required for Step Up For Students to determine scholarship eligibility.

### **Criteria used to evaluate eligibility for the Reading Scholarship Accounts:**

Step Up For Students will require an application to be submitted by a parent, along with a valid Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) that has been provided by a public school principal, or his/her designee, after a qualifying incident is reported. Step Up For Students will verify that the Hope Notification Form submitted is complete, and that one of the qualifying incident types has been identified on the form.

### **Methodology used to evaluate eligibility for the Hope Scholarship:**

Parents must complete and submit the application directly to Step Up For Students via a link provided on the website at <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/hope/how-the-scholarship-works/>.

Pursuant to Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C., the application submitted by the parent must include, at a minimum, the student's name, student's Florida Education Identifier (FLEID), date of birth, gender, race, current public school district, current public school attended, grade level, parent's name, telephone number, mailing address and email address.

A completed Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) must be submitted with the application.

Step Up For Students will confirm that this information, and supporting documentation, has been submitted for each student, will process applications in the order they are received, and will award scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis, pending funding availability.

**Application Process Fees and Deadlines:**

There are no fees to apply, and there is no application deadline established at this time.

**Deadlines for Attendance Verification and Scholarship Payments:**

Attendance verification will take place quarterly prior to each scholarship payment.

## Reading Scholarship Accounts

The Reading Scholarship Accounts program, administered by Step Up For Students, was created to help public school students in third through fifth grade who struggle with reading. The program offers parents access to education savings accounts, worth \$500 each, to pay for tuition and fees related to part-time tutoring, summer and after-school literacy programs, instructional materials and curriculum related to reading or literacy.

### **Criteria used to evaluate eligibility for the Reading Scholarship Accounts:**

Pursuant to s. 1002.411(2), F.S., contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, each student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior school year.

Eligible students who are classified as English Language Learners, and who are enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner students, will receive priority.

**NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the State of Florida waived all public school year-end testing for the 2019-20 school year. Due to this waiver, at the time of this submission, the eligibility criteria for the Reading Scholarship Accounts program for the 2020-21 school year was not finalized.**

### **Methodology used to evaluate eligibility for the Reading Scholarship Accounts:**

Students complete and submit an application directly to Step Up For Students on the website at [Readingapp.sufs.org](http://Readingapp.sufs.org).

Through the application, Step Up For Students collects the student name and demographic data, FLEID, grade level, and data required for the student to qualify under the eligibility criteria.

**NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the State of Florida waived all public school year-end testing for the 2019-20 school year. Due to this waiver, at the time of this submission, the eligibility criteria for the Reading Scholarship Accounts program for the 2020-21 school year had not been finalized.**

All student FLEIDs that match are sent on a monthly basis to the DOE for a cross-check with other scholarship programs, and then funded on a first-come, first-served basis, with English Language Learners on each monthly file receiving priority for funding.

**Application Process:**

There are no fees to apply. The application deadline is late spring unless available funding were to require an earlier deadline. The online application will remain open until allocated state funds have been expended.

**Deadlines for Attendance Verification and Scholarship Payments:**

Reading Scholarships are provided to public school students; therefore, the public-school district is responsible for handling the attendance records of students. Scholarship payments are made by Step Up For Students on a quarterly basis as reimbursement for qualifying expenditures.

## **Step Up For Students The Application Process, Deadlines and Associated Fees**

### **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

Families interested in receiving the Florida Tax Credit scholarship submit an online application in advance of the school year. Application start dates and deadlines are established each year.

In keeping with the guiding statute, renewing families receive priority and awards are granted on a first-come, first-served basis. The application process for renewing applicants begins prior to that for new families. Generally, renewing families can apply beginning in October and new families can apply beginning in January. Children in foster, out-of-home care and military families may apply at any time during the year.

Following the submission of an online application, families may be required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate eligibility. Step Up For Students operates under the priority mandated in Florida statute 1002.395 using a rolling admissions-style process with deadlines established based on historical trends in application volumes and utilization rates, and also as funding becomes scarce. At the point where funding becomes scarce, any qualified applicants will be placed on a wait list. Wait List students can become awarded if and when previously awarded students decline the scholarship and/or additional funding becomes available. If funding becomes available after the application period has closed, applicants may request an incomplete application to be reopened for processing.

Scholarship awards have an expiration date that is determined each year, and is indicated on the award letter. Students must be enrolled in an eligible, participating school by the expiration date, or request an extension indicating intent to enroll at a later date. Awards not utilized by the expiration date will be expired. If funding is still available after an award is expired, a family may request the award be reinstated with a new expiration timeframe. All requests for reinstatement or extension are subject to the availability of funding. There is no application or appeal fee.

### **The Gardiner Scholarship**

Families interested in receiving the Gardiner Scholarship submit an online application once the season opens. Application start dates and deadlines are established each year, with renewals having priority, followed by students on the wait list from the prior year and new students.

Applications are generally available to renewing applicants in January and prior-year wait list and new applicants in March. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The application period is closed as funding become scarce.

Following submission of an online application, new families are required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate eligibility, including the student's age, diagnosis and residency in the state of Florida. Once a student is found eligible, parents access the conditional eligibility letter within the parent login area of the SUFS website. The conditional eligibility letter describes the process that the Department of Education (DOE) uses to fund students.

On a monthly basis, Step Up For Students provides The Department of Education with a list of conditionally eligible students. The Department of Education then cross-checks enrollment lists for the public-school system, the McKay scholarship, the Florida Tax Credit scholarship and VPK to ensure the student is not already being funded by one of these programs. Once the student passes the cross-check the Department of Education will send funds to Step Up For Students for those students that do not appear on any of the programs listed above.

The scholarship award is based on a matrix established in the following way; 1) for renewal students the funding calculation remains the same, and defaults to a matrix that assigns the student to a level three services, unless the student's parent has asked the school district for a revised matrix and it has been changed by the Florida Department of Education; 2) for new students that do not have a matrix level of services, funding defaults to 90% of the 253 level. If the student has a matrix level of services on file with the Florida Department of Education, due to public school enrollment, of 254 or 255, they will be funded at 90% of that matrix level, there are deadlines throughout the year which in turn impact funding amounts.

Funding is prorated based on the date the student is found eligible by the Scholarship Funding Organization. The application must be received on or before August 1 and found eligible on or before September 1st for 100% scholarship. Application must be received on or before October 1st and found eligible on or before November 1st in order to receive 75%. Application must be received on or before January 1st and found eligible on or before February 1st for 50%. Application must be received on or before March 1st and found eligible on or before April 1st for 25%.

If funding is exhausted qualified applicants are placed on a wait list. Wait-listed students can become awarded if and when previously awarded students decline the scholarship and/or additional funding becomes available. Wait-listed students have priority over new students in the following season.

There is no application fee for the Gardiner program.

Policy exceptions must follow the documented exception process.

## Reading Scholarship Accounts Program

Pursuant to s. 1002.411(2), F.S., contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, each student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior school year.

Eligible students who are classified as English Language Learners, and who are enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner students, will receive priority.

Students complete and submit an application directly to Step Up For Students on the website at [Readingapp.sufs.org](http://Readingapp.sufs.org).

Through the application, Step Up For Students collects the student name and demographic data, FLEID, grade level, and test score data required for the student to qualify under the eligibility criteria.

**NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the State of Florida waived all public school year-end testing for the 2019-20 school year. Due to this waiver, at the time of this submission, the eligibility criteria for the Reading Scholarship Accounts program for the 2020-21 school year had not been finalized.**

All student FLEIDs that match are sent on a monthly basis to the DOE for a cross-check with other scholarship programs, and then funded on a first-come, first-served basis, with English Language Learners on each monthly file receiving priority for funding.

There are no fees to apply. The application deadline is late spring unless available funding were to require an earlier deadline. The online application will remain open until allocated state funds have been expended.

Reading Scholarships are provided to public school students; therefore, the public-school district is responsible for handling the attendance records of students. Scholarship payments are made by Step Up For Students on a quarterly basis as reimbursement for qualifying expenditures.

## Hope Scholarship

Step Up For Students will require an application to be submitted by a parent, along with a valid Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) that has been provided by a public school principal, or his/her designee, after a qualifying incident is reported. Step Up For Students will verify that the Hope Notification Form submitted is complete, and that one of the qualifying incident types has been identified on the form.

Parents must complete and submit the application directly to Step Up For Students via a link provided on the website at <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/hope/how-the-scholarship-works/>.

Pursuant to Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C., the application submitted by the parent must include, at a minimum, the student's name, student's Florida Education Identifier (FLEID), date of birth, gender, race, current public school district, current public school attended, grade level, parent's name, telephone number, mailing address and email address.

A completed Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) must be submitted with the application.

Step Up For Students will confirm that this information, and supporting documentation, has been submitted for each student, will process applications in the order they are received, and will award scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis, pending funding availability.

There are no fees to apply, and there is no application deadline established at this time.

### **Family Empowerment Scholarship**

Families interested in receiving the Family Empowerment scholarship submit an online application in advance of the school year. Application start dates and deadlines are established each year.

Following the submission of an online application, families may be required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate eligibility. Step Up For Students operates under the priority mandated in Florida statute 1002.394.

After review of the online application and supporting documentation, students found to be income eligible are presented to the Florida Department of Education for final eligibility related to having been in a Florida public school the year prior to application.

Students indicated as eligible by the Florida Department of Education are notified via email communication.

### **Deadlines for Attendance Verification and Scholarship Payments**

Verification windows for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program will occur a minimum of four times during the 2020-21 school year. During these windows, participating schools with enrolled students submit an attendance verification report for all students. Upon the successful submission of said report, schools will be sent the scholarship payments for the verified students. The verification and check issuance dates are as follows.

Policy exceptions must follow the documented exception process.

### **2020-2021 Florida Tax Credit Payment Distribution Schedule**

#### **Distribution I**

Verification Window	Tuesday, September 8 – Monday, September 14, 2020
Payment File Processing	Tuesday, September 15 – Thursday, September 24, 2020
First weekly ACH Payment	Friday, September 25, 2020
Last weekly ACH Payment	Friday, October 23, 2020

#### **Distribution II**

Verification Window	Monday, October 26 – Friday, October 30, 2020
Payment File Processing	Monday, November 2 – Thursday, November 12, 2020
First weekly ACH Payment	Friday, November 13, 2020
Last weekly ACH Payment	Friday, December 18, 2020

#### **Distribution III**

Verification Window	TBD
Payment File Processing	TBD
First weekly ACH Payment	TBD
Last weekly ACH Payment	TBD

#### **Distribution IV**

Verification Window	TBD
Payment File Processing	TBD
First weekly ACH Payment	TBD
Last weekly ACH Payment	TBD

## **Step Up For Students Conflicts of Interest Policy**

### **Article I**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

### **Article II**

#### **Definitions**

##### **1. Interested Person**

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

##### **2. Financial Interest**

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a.** An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- b.** A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c.** A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

### **Article III**

#### **Procedures**

##### **1. Duty to Disclose**

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

##### **2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists**

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while

the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

### **3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest**

**a.** An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

**b.** The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

**c.** After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.

**d.** If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

### **4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy**

**a.** If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

**b.** If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

## **Article IV**

### **Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

**a.** The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

**b.** The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

## **Article V**

### **Compensation**

- a.** A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b.** A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c.** No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

## **Article VI**

### **Annual Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a.** Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b.** Has read and understands the policy,
- c.** Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d.** Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

## **Article VII**

### **Periodic Reviews**

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a.** Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b.** Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

## **Article VIII**

### **Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

## **Step Up For Students Employee Protection – Whistleblower**

### **Purpose**

Step Up For Students, Inc. (“Organization”) requires directors, officers and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and representatives of the organization, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

### **Guidelines Reporting Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of all directors, officers and employees to report ethics violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

### **No Retaliation**

No director, officer or employee who in good faith reports an ethics violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within the organization prior to seeking resolution outside the organization.

### **Reporting Violations**

The Organization has an open door policy and suggests that employees share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, an employee's supervisor is in the best position to address an area of concern. However, if you are not comfortable speaking with your supervisor or you are not satisfied with your supervisor's response, you are encouraged to speak with anyone in management whom you are comfortable in approaching. Supervisors and managers are required to report suspected ethics violations to the organization's Compliance Officer, who has specific and exclusive responsibility to investigate all reported violations. When you are not satisfied or uncomfortable with following organization's open door policy, individuals may contact the organization's Compliance Officer directly.

### **Compliance Officer**

The organization's Compliance Officer is responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning violations and, at his/her discretion, shall advise the President and/or the Chairman. The Compliance Step Up For Students Employee Protection - Whistleblower Policy Officer has direct access to the board of directors and is required to report to the board at least annually on compliance activity. The Compliance Officer is the Chief Financial Officer.

### **Acting in Good Faith**

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a

violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

### **Confidentiality**

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

### **Handling of Reported Violations**

The Compliance Officer will notify the sender and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation within five business days. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation. Employees using and having access to these corporate assets must take reasonable and prudent steps to preserve the integrity of the systems, data and to protect the assets. These assets should be used primarily for purposes that benefit the Organization and that are directly applicable to an employee's job function and authority. Occasional personal use is acceptable provided such use does not interfere with company business or the performance of your duties and incurs little or no cost. All communications from the Organization or made and transmitted within the Organization shall be professional in nature as they represent the corporation, its employees, board of directors, and others.

Violation of policy or misuse of corporate assets is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Failure to report known violations of policy in itself constitutes a violation of policy and is therefore subject to disciplinary action.

These policies are intended to augment existing State, Federal and copyright laws. Failure to comply with applicable State, Federal, or copyright laws is Step Up For Students Employee Protection - Whistleblower Policy considered a violation of policy and subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### **Authority and Interpretation**

The Organization has the legal right to revise or eliminate this policy at any given time with or without notice.

State of Florida

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION BOND

Bond No. 21BSBHF7433
(To be Assigned by Surety)

Know All Men By These Presents, that we Step Up For Students, Inc.
(Principal)

located at 4655 Salisbury Road Suite 400 Jacksonville, FL 32256
(Address of Principal)

as Principal and Hartford Fire Insurance Company, a corporation of the State of Connecticut lawfully doing business in
(Surety Company)

the State of Florida, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization,
pursuant to 1002.395 F.S. for the use and benefit of any student who would have had scholarships funded but for a
diversion of funds giving rise to the claim against this bond in the sum of \$25,000,000.00 for which sum well and truly to
be paid to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, for the use and benefit of any student who would have
had scholarship funded but for the diversion of funds giving rise to the claim against the bond, said Principal and Surety
bind themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these
presents.

Whereas, the above bounded Principal, a "Scholarship Funding Organization," desires to operate its organization at the
above stated location as authorized by and in conformity with the provisions of the Florida Statutes and all rules and
regulations promulgated by the Department of Education thereunder, and

Whereas, said "Florida K-20 Education Code" requires the filing of a letter of credit or a surety bond in the sum of
\$25,000,000.00 (as determined by the formula in section 1002.395, F.S., adjustable quarterly to equal the actual amount
of undisbursed funds based upon submission by the organization of a statement from a certified public accountant
verifying the amount of undisbursed funds) before a 'Certificate of Authorization' can be issued to the organization.

Now, Therefore, The Condition Of This Obligation is that if the Principal or any of its officers, agents, or employees, shall
well and truly perform its obligations as set forth under section 1002.395, F.S., then this obligation shall be null and void;
otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect.

- 1. The aggregate Liability of the Surety shall not exceed the penal sum of the bond, as required by section 1002.395,
F.S., on all breaches of the condition of the bond by the Principal and its officers, agents, or employees, nor shall the
sum of the bond be considered cumulative from year to year. Should the Principal fail with respect to any of its statutory
obligations under section 1002.395, F.S., as evidenced by agency action taken by the Florida Department of Education,
resulting in a diversion, giving rise to the claim against the bond, of funds that would have been provided as scholarship
funds to student(s), then immediately upon demand, the Surety will be obligated to pay such scholarship funds
hereunder up to the amount of such bond to the eligible nonprofit scholarship funding organization.
2. The Surety shall have the right to cancel this bond at any time by written notice, stating when the cancellation shall
take effect and served by registered mail to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at least thirty (30)
days prior to the date that the cancellation becomes effective, but said Surety so filing said notice shall not be discharged
from any liability already accrued or incurred under this bond or which shall accrue or incur hereunder before the
expiration of said thirty (30) day period, whether known or unknown at the time of expiration.
3. Without limiting the effect of any other provision herein which is not in conflict therewith, this bond is to be construed
as a statutory bond under the provision of section 1002.395, F.S., the Florida K-20 Education Code.

Signed and sealed this 1st day of August 2015.

Attest

Witness signatures: Kevin Law, Paul, Vincent Deduca, Margie Head

Step Up For Students, Inc. (Principal) signed by Chase White; Hartford Fire Insurance Company (Surety) signed by Tyler D. DeBord: Attorney In-Fact & Resident Agent

# POWER OF ATTORNEY

Direct Inquiries/Claims to:

**THE HARTFORD**

Bond T-4

One Hartford Plaza

Hartford, Connecticut 06155

call: 888-266-3488 or fax: 860-757-5835)

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT:

Agency Code: 21-220889

- Hartford Fire Insurance Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut
- Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana
- Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut
- Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut
- Twin City Fire Insurance Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana
- Hartford Insurance Company of Illinois, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Illinois
- Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana
- Hartford Insurance Company of the Southeast, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Florida

having their home office in Hartford, Connecticut (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Companies") do hereby make, constitute and appoint, **up to the amount of Unlimited** :

Ryan P. Rothrock, Tyler D. DeBord, Steve P. Farmer, Rebecca A. Robinson, Pamela J. Thompson, M. Decker Youngman, III of DAYTONA BEACH, Florida

their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, each in their separate capacity if more than one is named above, to sign its name as surety(ies) only as delineated above by , and to execute, seal and acknowledge any and all bonds, undertakings, contracts and other written instruments in the nature thereof, on behalf of the Companies in their business of guaranteeing the fidelity of persons, guaranteeing the performance of contracts and executing or guaranteeing bonds and undertakings required or permitted in any actions or proceedings allowed by law.

In Witness Whereof, and as authorized by a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Companies on August 1, 2009, the Companies have caused these presents to be signed by its Vice President and its corporate seals to be hereto affixed, duly attested by its Assistant Secretary. Further, pursuant to Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Companies, the Companies hereby unambiguously affirm that they are and will be bound by any mechanically applied signatures applied to this Power of Attorney.



*Wesley W. Cowling*

Wesley W. Cowling, Assistant Secretary

*M. Ross Fisher*

M. Ross Fisher, Vice President

STATE OF CONNECTICUT }  
 COUNTY OF HARTFORD } ss. Hartford

On this 12th day of July, 2012, before me personally came M. Ross Fisher, to me known, who being by me duly sworn, did depose and say: that he resides in the County of Hartford, State of Connecticut; that he is the Vice President of the Companies, the corporations described in and which executed the above instrument; that he knows the seals of the said corporations; that the seals affixed to the said instrument are such corporate seals; that they were so affixed by authority of the Boards of Directors of said corporations and that he signed his name thereto by like authority.



CERTIFICATE

*Kathleen T. Maynard*

Kathleen T. Maynard  
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires July 31, 2016

I, the undersigned, Vice President of the Companies, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Power of Attorney executed by said Companies, which is still in full force effective as of August 1, 2015  
 Signed and sealed at the City of Hartford.



*Gary W. Stumper*

Gary W. Stumper, Vice President



# Verification Certificate

This is to certify that Bond No. \_\_\_\_\_ issued by the member company of The Hartford  
subscribing this certificate, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, as Principal,  
and in favor of \_\_\_\_\_, as Obligee,  
covers an indefinite term which began on \_\_\_\_\_, and ends with the cancellation of  
said bond; that said bond is now in full force and effect and will continue in full force and effect until cancelled.

**ANNIVERSARY PREMIUM PERIOD:**

**Signed, Sealed, and Dated**

Attest or Witness

*Shelby Wiggins*

Surety

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Joelle Hurst*

, Attorney in fact



# POWER OF ATTORNEY

Direct Inquiries/Claims to:  
**THE HARTFORD**  
 BOND, T-11  
 One Hartford Plaza  
 Hartford, Connecticut 06155  
[Bond.Claims@thehartford.com](mailto:Bond.Claims@thehartford.com)  
 call: 888-266-3488 or fax: 860-757-5835

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT:

Agency Name:  
 Agency Code:

- Hartford Fire Insurance Company**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut
- Hartford Casualty Insurance Company**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana
- Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut
- Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut
- Twin City Fire Insurance Company**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana
- Hartford Insurance Company of Illinois**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Illinois
- Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana
- Hartford Insurance Company of the Southeast**, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Florida

having their home office in Hartford, Connecticut (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Companies") do hereby make, constitute and appoint

its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact, to sign its name as surety(ies) only as delineated above by , and to execute, seal and acknowledge the following bond, undertaking, contract or written instrument:  
 Bond No.

in the amount of See Bond Form(s) on behalf of Company in its business of guaranteeing the fidelity of persons, guaranteeing the performance of contracts and executing or guaranteeing bonds and undertakings required or permitted in any actions or proceedings allowed by law.

**In Witness Whereof**, and as authorized by a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Companies on May 23, 2016 the Companies have caused these presents to be signed by its Assistant Vice President and its corporate seals to be hereto affixed, duly attested by its Assistant Secretary. Further, pursuant to Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Companies, the Companies hereby unambiguously affirm that they are and will be bound by any mechanically applied signatures applied to this Power of Attorney.



*Shelby Wiggins*

Shelby Wiggins, Assistant Secretary

*Joelle L. LaPierre*

Joelle L. LaPierre, Assistant Vice President

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF SEMINOLE



ss. Lake Mary

On this 13th day of February, 2020, before me personally came Joelle LaPierre, to me known, who being by me duly sworn, did depose and say: that (s)he resides in Seminole County, State of Florida; that (s)he is the Assistant Vice President of the Companies, the corporations described in and which executed the above instrument; that (s)he knows the seals of the said corporations; that the seals affixed to the said instrument are such corporate seals; that they were so affixed by authority of the Boards of Directors of said corporations and that (s)he signed his/her name thereto by like authority.



*Jessica Ciccone*

Jessica Noelle Ciccone  
 My Commission #FF029702  
 Expires June 20, 2021

I, the undersigned, Assistant Vice President of the Companies, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Power of Attorney executed by said Companies, which is still in full force effective as of \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed and sealed in Lake Mary, Florida.



*Keith Dozois*

Keith D. Dozois, Assistant Vice President

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COPY

DECEMBER 5, 2019

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

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.:

ENCLOSED ARE THE ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY OF THE 2018 EXEMPT ORGANIZATION RETURN,  
AS FOLLOWS...

2018 FORM 990

EACH ORIGINAL SHOULD BE DATED, SIGNED AND FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FILING  
INSTRUCTIONS. THE COPY SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR YOUR FILES.

REGARDS,

JULIANA KREUL

# TAX RETURN FILING INSTRUCTIONS

FORM 990

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

JUNE 30, 2019

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**PREPARED FOR:**

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

---

**PREPARED BY:**

RSM US LLP  
7351 OFFICE PARK PL.  
MELBOURNE, FL 32940-8229

---

**AMOUNT DUE OR REFUND:**

NOT APPLICABLE

---

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

NOT APPLICABLE

---

**MAIL TAX RETURN AND CHECK (IF APPLICABLE) TO:**

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

---

**RETURN MUST BE MAILED ON OR BEFORE:**

---

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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



# IRS e-file Signature Authorization for an Exempt Organization

For calendar year 2018, or fiscal year beginning JUL 1, 2018, and ending JUN 30, 2019

# 2018

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Do not send to the IRS. Keep for your records.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form8879EO](http://www.irs.gov/Form8879EO) for the latest information.**

Name of exempt organization

Employer identification number

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.

59-3649371

Name and title of officer

JOE PFOUNTZ

CFO

### Part I Type of Return and Return Information (Whole Dollars Only)

Check the box for the return for which you are using this Form 8879-EO and enter the applicable amount, if any, from the return. If you check the box on line 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, or 5a, below, and the amount on that line for the return being filed with this form was blank, then leave line 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, or 5b, whichever is applicable, blank (do not enter -0-). But, if you entered -0- on the return, then enter -0- on the applicable line below. **Do not complete more than one line in Part I.**

1a	Form 990 check here	▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b	Total revenue, if any (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1b	<u>717,949,667.</u>
2a	Form 990-EZ check here	▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total revenue, if any (Form 990-EZ, line 9)	2b	
3a	Form 1120-POL check here	▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	b	Total tax (Form 1120-POL, line 22)	3b	
4a	Form 990-PF check here	▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	b	Tax based on investment income (Form 990-PF, Part VI, line 5)	4b	
5a	Form 8868 check here	▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	b	Balance Due (Form 8868, line 3c)	5b	

### Part II Declaration and Signature Authorization of Officer

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I am an officer of the above organization and that I have examined a copy of the organization's 2018 electronic return and accompanying schedules and statements and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. I further declare that the amount in Part I above is the amount shown on the copy of the organization's electronic return. I consent to allow my intermediate service provider, transmitter, or electronic return originator (ERO) to send the organization's return to the IRS and to receive from the IRS (a) an acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the transmission, (b) the reason for any delay in processing the return or refund, and (c) the date of any refund. If applicable, I authorize the U.S. Treasury and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) entry to the financial institution account indicated in the tax preparation software for payment of the organization's federal taxes owed on this return, and the financial institution to debit the entry to this account. To revoke a payment, I must contact the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent at 1-888-353-4537 no later than 2 business days prior to the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the financial institutions involved in the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to answer inquiries and resolve issues related to the payment. I have selected a personal identification number (PIN) as my signature for the organization's electronic return and, if applicable, the organization's consent to electronic funds withdrawal.

Officer's PIN: check one box only

I authorize RSM US LLP

ERO firm name

to enter my PIN 49371

**Enter five numbers, but do not enter all zeros**

as my signature on the organization's tax year 2018 electronically filed return. If I have indicated within this return that a copy of the return is being filed with a state agency(ies) regulating charities as part of the IRS Fed/State program, I also authorize the aforementioned ERO to enter my PIN on the return's disclosure consent screen.

As an officer of the organization, I will enter my PIN as my signature on the organization's tax year 2018 electronically filed return. If I have indicated within this return that a copy of the return is being filed with a state agency(ies) regulating charities as part of the IRS Fed/State program, I will enter my PIN on the return's disclosure consent screen.

Officer's signature ▶

Date ▶

12-18-19

### Part III Certification and Authentication

ERO's EFIN/PIN. Enter your six-digit electronic filing identification number (EFIN) followed by your five-digit self-selected PIN.

50888953718

**Do not enter all zeros**

I certify that the above numeric entry is my PIN, which is my signature on the 2018 electronically filed return for the organization indicated above. I confirm that I am submitting this return in accordance with the requirements of **Pub. 4163**, Modernized e-File (MeF) Information for Authorized IRS e-file Providers for Business Returns.

ERO's signature ▶

Date ▶

**ERO Must Retain This Form - See Instructions  
Do Not Submit This Form to the IRS Unless Requested To Do So**

Form **990**

**Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**

OMB No. 1545-0047

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

**2018**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.  
▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public Inspection

**A** For the 2018 calendar year, or tax year beginning JUL 1, 2018 and ending JUN 30, 2019

<b>B</b> Check if applicable:  <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	<b>C</b> Name of organization <b>STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.</b>		<b>D</b> Employer identification number <b>59-3649371</b>
	Doing business as		<b>E</b> Telephone number <b>904-352-2246</b>
	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite	<b>G</b> Gross receipts \$ <b>717,949,667.</b>
	<b>4655 SALISBURY ROAD</b>	<b>400</b>	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code <b>JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256</b>		<b>H(a)</b> Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer: <b>JOE PFOUNTZ</b> <b>SAME AS C ABOVE</b>		<b>H(b)</b> Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>I</b> Tax-exempt status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) ( ) (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)	
<b>J</b> Website: <b>WWW.STEPUFORSTUDENTS.ORG</b>		<b>H(c)</b> Group exemption number ▶	
<b>K</b> Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶		<b>L</b> Year of formation: <b>2000</b>	<b>M</b> State of legal domicile: <b>FL</b>

**Part I Summary**

<b>Activities &amp; Governance</b>	<b>1</b> Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>SEE SCHEDULE O</u>		
	<b>2</b> Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	<b>3</b> Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>4</b> Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>5</b> Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2018 (Part V, line 2a)	<b>5</b>	<b>291</b>
	<b>6</b> Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	<b>6</b>	<b>1085</b>
	<b>7 a</b> Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	<b>7a</b>	<b>0.</b>
<b>b</b> Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 38	<b>7b</b>	<b>0.</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>8</b> Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>Current Year</b>
	<b>9</b> Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	705,681,555.	714,828,892.
	<b>10</b> Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	976,220.	1,432,494.
	<b>11</b> Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	999,419.	1,673,206.
	<b>12</b> Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	3,990.	15,075.
	<b>12</b> Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	707,661,184.	717,949,667.
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>13</b> Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	650,979,063.	624,325,720.
	<b>14</b> Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0.	0.
	<b>15</b> Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	0.	0.
	<b>16a</b> Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	15,927,052.	19,899,245.
	<b>b</b> Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ <b>2,666,911.</b>	0.	0.
	<b>17</b> Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	7,697,802.	10,563,586.
<b>18</b> Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	674,603,917.	654,788,551.	
<b>19</b> Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	33,057,267.	63,161,116.	
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>20</b> Total assets (Part X, line 16)	<b>Beginning of Current Year</b>	<b>End of Year</b>
	<b>21</b> Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	589,394,333.	697,130,640.
	<b>22</b> Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	75,690,706.	120,265,897.
		513,703,627.	576,864,743.

**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.

<b>Sign Here</b>	Signature of officer 	Date
	<b>JOE PFOUNTZ, CFO</b> Type or print name and title	

<b>Paid Preparer Use Only</b>	Print/Type preparer's name <b>JULIANA KREUL</b>	Preparer's signature 	Date <b>12/20/2019</b>	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN <b>P01204534</b>
	Firm's name ▶ <b>RSM US LLP</b>	Firm's EIN ▶ <b>42-0714325</b>			
	Firm's address ▶ <b>7351 OFFICE PARK PL. MELBOURNE, FL 32940-8229</b>	Phone no. <b>321-751-6200</b>			

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 INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ACCESS THESE OPTIONS. BY PURSUING THIS MISSION, WE HELP PUBLIC EDUCATION

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? [X] Yes [ ] 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 \$ 625,587,489. including grants of \$ 615,252,820. ) (Revenue \$ ) FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: IN THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR, 100,320 UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS ATTENDED 1,825 PRIVATE SCHOOLS ON A STEP UP FOR STUDENTS' TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP. THE K-12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WAS CREATED IN 2001 TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE ENORMOUS EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN POVERTY, AND IT IS NOW THE LARGEST SUCH SCHOLARSHIP IN THE NATION. ELIGIBLE STUDENTS COULD CHOOSE BETWEEN SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH UP TO \$7,111 FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION AND FEES OR UP TO \$750 IN TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO ATTEND AN OUT-OF-DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL. THE AVERAGE INCOME FOR PARTICIPANTS WAS 13% ABOVE THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, AND 55% OF THE STUDENTS WERE FROM SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS. STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES RELEASED IN AUGUST 2018 SHOWED THAT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS WERE ACHIEVING THE SAME GAINS IN READING AND

4b (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 9,380,985. including grants of \$ 8,781,932. ) (Revenue \$ 0. ) 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 K5-12TH GRADE STUDENTS WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO STUDENTS 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 10,750 SCHOLARSHIPS OVER 5 1/2 YEARS REPRESENTING 46 OF THE 67 COUNTIES IN ALABAMA. 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 \$ 4,993,457. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ ) THE GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT PROGRAM: IN THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR, STEP UP ALSO ADMINISTERED A STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC DISABILITIES THAT INCLUDE: AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, DOWN SYNDROME, SPINA BIFIDA, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND WILLIAMS SYNDROME. FOR 2018-19, THE PROGRAM SERVED 13,407 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH AN AVERAGE OF \$10,306 EACH. THE PROGRAM EMPOWERS FAMILIES TO CHOOSE THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THAT BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENT, AND THE MONEY CAN BE SPENT FOR SCHOOLS, THERAPISTS, SPECIALISTS, CURRICULUM, TECHNOLOGY - EVEN A COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.) (Expenses \$ 7,760,073. including grants of \$ 290,968. ) (Revenue \$ 1,447,569. )

4e Total program service expenses 647,722,004.

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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	
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ? .....	X	
<b>3</b> 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
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> 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	
<b>5</b> 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
<b>6</b> 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
<b>7</b> 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
<b>8</b> 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
<b>9</b> 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	
<b>10</b> 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
<b>11</b> 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.		
<b>a</b> 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>b</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
<b>c</b> 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
<b>d</b> 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	
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> .....		X
<b>f</b> 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	
<b>12a</b> 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>b</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	
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i> .....		X
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? .....		X
<b>b</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
<b>15</b> 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
<b>16</b> 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
<b>17</b> 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
<b>18</b> 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
<b>19</b> 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
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return? .....		
<b>21</b> 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

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>22</b> 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	
<b>23</b> 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	
<b>24a</b> 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>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? .....		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? .....		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? .....		
<b>25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> 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>b</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
<b>26</b> 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
<b>27</b> 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
<b>28</b> 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):		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> .....		X
<b>b</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
<b>c</b> 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
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> .....		X
<b>30</b> 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
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i> .....		X
<b>32</b> 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
<b>33</b> 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	
<b>34</b> 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	
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? .....	X	
<b>b</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
<b>36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> 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
<b>37</b> 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
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O .....	X	

**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

	Yes	No
<b>1a</b> Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable .....		
<b>b</b> Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable .....		
<b>c</b> Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners? .....	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

Table with columns for question number, question text, and Yes/No response boxes. Includes questions 2a through 16 regarding employee reporting, tax returns, business income, 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 AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, DC, GA, HI, IL, KS, KY
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (1024 or 1024-A 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	40.00	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) JOHN LEGG DIRECTOR, SUFS	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
(9) DOUG TUTHILL PRESIDENT, SUFS	40.00			X			244,845.	0.	28,247.	
(10) ANNE WHITE CAO, SUFS	40.00			X			162,690.	0.	24,542.	
(11) JOE PFOUNTZ TREASURER & CFO, SUFS	40.00			X			194,872.	0.	25,054.	
(12) ALISSA RANDALL VP MARKETING & EVENTS, SUF	40.00				X		155,886.	0.	17,918.	
(13) JONATHAN BECKHAM VP INNOVATION	40.00				X		149,755.	0.	31,880.	
(14) GINA LYNCH VP OPERATIONS	40.00				X		145,642.	0.	21,826.	
(15) CAROL MACEDONIA VP STUDENT LEARNING	40.00				X		145,157.	0.	17,677.	
(16) JONATHAN EAST VP POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS	40.00				X		143,893.	0.	16,008.	



**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	
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1 a</b> Federated campaigns .....	<b>1a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Membership dues .....	<b>1b</b>						
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events .....	<b>1c</b>						
	<b>d</b> Related organizations .....	<b>1d</b>						
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions) .....	<b>1e</b>						
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above .....	<b>1f</b>	714,828,892.					
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$ .....							
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f .....							714,828,892.
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	<b>2 a</b> SERVICE CONTRACT .....	<b>Business Code</b>	561000	981,486.	981,486.			
	<b>b</b> ADVOCACY & CIVIC ENGAG .....		900099	409,226.	409,226.			
	<b>c</b> STUDENT DEVELOPMENT .....		900099	41,782.	41,782.			
	<b>d</b> .....							
	<b>e</b> .....							
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue .....							
	<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f .....				1,432,494.			
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) .....			1,673,206.			1,673,206.	
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds .....							
	<b>5</b> Royalties .....							
	<b>6 a</b> Gross rents .....	(i) Real	(ii) Personal					
		<b>b</b> Less: rental expenses .....						
		<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss) .....						
		<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) .....						
	<b>7 a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory .....	(i) Securities	(ii) Other					
		<b>b</b> Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses .....						
		<b>c</b> Gain or (loss) .....						
		<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) .....						
	<b>8 a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 .....	<b>a</b>						
		<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses .....	<b>b</b>					
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events .....						
	<b>9 a</b> Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 .....	<b>a</b>						
<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses .....		<b>b</b>						
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities .....								
<b>10 a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances .....	<b>a</b>							
	<b>b</b> Less: cost of goods sold .....	<b>b</b>						
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory .....							
Miscellaneous Revenue			<b>Business Code</b>					
<b>11 a</b> OTHER INCOME .....			900099	15,075.	15,075.			
	<b>b</b> .....							
	<b>c</b> .....							
	<b>d</b> All other revenue .....							
	<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d .....				15,075.			
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See instructions .....				717,949,667.	1,447,569.	0.	1,673,206.	

**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

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
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 ...				
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22 .....	624,325,720.	624,325,720.		
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 .....				
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members .....				
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees .....	632,024.		632,024.	
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) .....				
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages .....	15,408,848.	13,200,347.	829,982.	1,378,519.
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	759,599.	562,224.	133,580.	63,795.
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits .....	1,962,014.	1,528,992.	251,534.	181,488.
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes .....	1,136,760.	855,779.	189,662.	91,319.
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees):				
<b>a</b> Management .....				
<b>b</b> Legal .....	121,960.		121,960.	
<b>c</b> Accounting .....	261,069.		261,069.	
<b>d</b> Lobbying .....	256,683.	256,683.		
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
<b>f</b> Investment management fees .....				
<b>g</b> Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch. O.)	4,465,341.	2,765,330.	1,275,674.	424,337.
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion .....	585,918.	469,841.	72,551.	43,526.
<b>13</b> Office expenses .....	427,924.	302,884.	48,077.	76,963.
<b>14</b> Information technology .....				
<b>15</b> Royalties .....				
<b>16</b> Occupancy .....	873,297.	682,725.	123,441.	67,131.
<b>17</b> Travel .....	800,031.	526,410.	126,365.	147,256.
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials ...				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings .....				
<b>20</b> Interest .....				
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates .....				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	758,610.	603,001.	100,760.	54,849.
<b>23</b> Insurance .....	288,583.	227,496.	39,435.	21,652.
<b>24</b> 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.)				
<b>a</b> OTHER COSTS	603,562.	603,562.		
<b>b</b> REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	466,757.	361,278.	72,916.	32,563.
<b>c</b> PRINTING AND POSTAGE	355,679.	237,332.	34,834.	83,513.
<b>d</b> BANK FEES	298,172.	212,400.	85,772.	
<b>e</b> All other expenses				
<b>25</b> Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	654,788,551.	647,722,004.	4,399,636.	2,666,911.
<b>26</b> 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) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash - non-interest-bearing .....	19,085,583.	<b>1</b>	63,442,105.
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments .....	196,000.	<b>2</b>	130,000.
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net .....	502,820,023.	<b>3</b>	542,649,336.
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net .....	5,137,782.	<b>4</b>	4,963,297.
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L .....		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> 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 .....		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net .....		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use .....		<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges .....	701,402.	<b>9</b>	858,639.
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D .....	<b>10a</b> 4,637,268.		
	<b>b</b> Less: accumulated depreciation .....	<b>10b</b> 1,741,164.		
		2,986,165.	<b>10c</b>	2,896,104.
	<b>11</b> Investments - publicly traded securities .....		<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b> Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets .....		<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 .....	58,467,378.	<b>15</b>	82,191,159.	
<b>16 Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) .....	589,394,333.	<b>16</b>	697,130,640.	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses .....	2,236,696.	<b>17</b>	3,083,508.
	<b>18</b> Grants payable .....		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue .....		<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities .....		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D .....	58,467,378.	<b>21</b>	82,182,389.
	<b>22</b> 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 .....		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties .....	14,986,632.	<b>23</b>	35,000,000.
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties .....		<b>24</b>	
	<b>25</b> 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 .....		<b>25</b>	
	<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 .....	75,690,706.	<b>26</b>	120,265,897.
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Unrestricted net assets .....	8,115,532.	<b>27</b>	6,621,589.
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets .....	505,588,095.	<b>28</b>	570,243,154.
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets .....		<b>29</b>	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>			
	<b>30</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds .....		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund .....		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds .....		<b>32</b>	
<b>33</b> Total net assets or fund balances .....	513,703,627.	<b>33</b>	576,864,743.	
<b>34</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances .....	589,394,333.	<b>34</b>	697,130,640.	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

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

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	717,949,667.
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	654,788,551.
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	63,161,116.
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	<b>4</b>	513,703,627.
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	0.
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	576,864,743.

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

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

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	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.		
<b>2a</b>	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>b</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	
<b>c</b>	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	
<b>3a</b>	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>b</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 _____		



**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) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") .....	456,345,377.	521,372,137.	533,245,078.	705,681,555.	714,828,892.	2931473039.
<b>2</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf .....						
<b>3</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge .....						
<b>4 Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 3 .....	456,345,377.	521,372,137.	533,245,078.	705,681,555.	714,828,892.	2931473039.
<b>5</b> 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) .....						1157199278.
<b>6 Public support.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4.						1774273761.

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(f) Total
<b>7</b> Amounts from line 4 .....	456,345,377.	521,372,137.	533,245,078.	705,681,555.	714,828,892.	2931473039.
<b>8</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources .....	8,223.	90,396.	397,500.	999,419.	1,673,206.	3,168,744.
<b>9</b> Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on .....						
<b>10</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.) .....	12,665.	7,046.	339.	3,990.	15,075.	39,115.
<b>11 Total support.</b> Add lines 7 through 10						2934680898.
<b>12</b> Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) .....					12	4,025,083.
<b>13 First five years.</b> 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 <b>stop here</b> .....						<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

<b>14</b> Public support percentage for 2018 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f)) .....	<b>14</b>	60.46 %
<b>15</b> Public support percentage from 2017 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 .....	<b>15</b>	59.19 %
<b>16a 33 1/3% support test - 2018.</b> If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization .....		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>b 33 1/3% support test - 2017.</b> 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 <b>stop here.</b> The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization .....		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2018.</b> 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 <b>stop here.</b> 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>b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2017.</b> 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 <b>stop here.</b> 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>18 Private foundation.</b> 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) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") .....						
<b>2</b> 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 .....						
<b>3</b> Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513 .....						
<b>4</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf .....						
<b>5</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge .....						
<b>6 Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 5 .....						
<b>7a</b> Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons .....						
<b>b</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 .....						
<b>c</b> Add lines 7a and 7b .....						
<b>8 Public support.</b> (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(f) Total
<b>9</b> Amounts from line 6 .....						
<b>10a</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources .....						
<b>b</b> Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975 .....						
<b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b .....						
<b>11</b> Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on .....						
<b>12</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.) .....						
<b>13 Total support.</b> (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**

<b>15</b> Public support percentage for 2018 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f)) .....	<b>15</b>	%
<b>16</b> Public support percentage from 2017 Schedule A, Part III, line 15 .....	<b>16</b>	%

**Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage**

<b>17</b> Investment income percentage for 2018 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f)) .....	<b>17</b>	%
<b>18</b> Investment income percentage from 2017 Schedule A, Part III, line 17 .....	<b>18</b>	%

**19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2018.** 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 - 2017.** 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
<b>1</b> 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>		
<b>2</b> 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>		
<b>3a</b> 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>b</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>		
<b>c</b> 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>		
<b>4a</b> 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>b</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>		
<b>c</b> 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>		
<b>5a</b> 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>b Type I or Type II only.</b> Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
<b>c Substitutions only.</b> Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
<b>6</b> 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>		
<b>7</b> Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as 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>		
<b>8</b> 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>		
<b>9a</b> 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>b</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>		
<b>c</b> 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>		
<b>10a</b> 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>b</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
<b>11</b> Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
<b>a</b> 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>b</b> A family member of a person described in (a) above?		
<b>c</b> A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? <i>If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.</i>		

**Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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? <i>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.</i>		
<b>2</b> 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? <i>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.</i>		

**Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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)? <i>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).</i>		

**Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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?		
<b>2</b> 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? <i>If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).</i>		
<b>3</b> 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? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.</i>		

**Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations**

<b>1</b> Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).		
<b>a</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.		
<b>b</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.		
<b>c</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions).		
<b>2</b> Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) below.		
<b>a</b> 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? <i>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.</i>		
<b>b</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? <i>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.</i>		
<b>3</b> Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) below.		
<b>a</b> 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? <i>Provide details in Part VI.</i>		
<b>b</b> Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.</i>		

**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	<b>Adjusted Net Income</b> (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	<b>Total</b> (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	<b>Discount</b> claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in <b>Part VI</b> ):		
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	<b>Minimum Asset Amount</b> (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount		(A) Prior Year	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	<b>Distributable Amount.</b> 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) 2018

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

Section D - Distributions	Current Year
<b>1</b> Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	
<b>2</b> Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	
<b>3</b> Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	
<b>4</b> Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	
<b>5</b> Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)	
<b>6</b> Other distributions (describe in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions.	
<b>7 Total annual distributions.</b> Add lines 1 through 6.	
<b>8</b> Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions.	
<b>9</b> Distributable amount for 2018 from Section C, line 6	
<b>10</b> Line 8 amount divided by line 9 amount	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2018	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2018
<b>1</b> Distributable amount for 2018 from Section C, line 6			
<b>2</b> Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2018 (reasonable cause required- explain in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions.			
<b>3</b> Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2018			
<b>a</b> From 2013			
<b>b</b> From 2014			
<b>c</b> From 2015			
<b>d</b> From 2016			
<b>e</b> From 2017			
<b>f Total</b> of lines 3a through e			
<b>g</b> Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
<b>h</b> Applied to 2018 distributable amount			
<b>i</b> Carryover from 2013 not applied (see instructions)			
<b>j</b> Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f.			
<b>4</b> Distributions for 2018 from Section D, line 7: \$			
<b>a</b> Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
<b>b</b> Applied to 2018 distributable amount			
<b>c</b> Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4.			
<b>5</b> Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2018, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in <b>Part VI</b> . See instructions.			
<b>6</b> Remaining underdistributions for 2018. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in <b>Part VI</b> . See instructions.			
<b>7 Excess distributions carryover to 2019.</b> Add lines 3j and 4c.			
<b>8</b> Breakdown of line 7:			
<b>a</b> Excess from 2014			
<b>b</b> Excess from 2015			
<b>c</b> Excess from 2016			
<b>d</b> Excess from 2017			
<b>e</b> Excess from 2018			

**Part VI**

**Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information.  
(See instructions.)

SCHEDULE A, PART II, LINE 10, EXPLANATION FOR OTHER INCOME:

OTHER INCOME

2014 AMOUNT: \$ 12,665.

2015 AMOUNT: \$ 7,046.

2016 AMOUNT: \$ 339.

2017 AMOUNT: \$ 3,990.

2018 AMOUNT: \$ 15,075.

# 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.  
▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

# 2018

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 (entering "N/A" in column (b) instead of the contributor name and address), 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).

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

**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	_____ _____ _____	\$ 17,250,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
2	_____ _____ _____	\$ 29,400,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
3	_____ _____ _____	\$ 22,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
4	_____ _____ _____	\$ 65,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
5	_____ _____ _____	\$ 150,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
6	_____ _____ _____	\$ 34,000,000.	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
--	--

**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
7	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 24,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
8	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 38,000,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input 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
--	--

**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
--	--

**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
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
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

**2018**

**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.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.**

**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 <p style="text-align: center;">STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.</p>	Employer identification number <p style="text-align: center;">59-3649371</p>
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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) 2018**

LHA

**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.

<b>Limits on Lobbying Expenditures</b> (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
<b>1a</b>	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)	124,725.													
<b>b</b>	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)	131,958.													
<b>c</b>	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)	256,683.													
<b>d</b>	Other exempt purpose expenditures	654,531,868.													
<b>e</b>	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)	654,788,551.													
<b>f</b>	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.														
<b>g</b>	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)	250,000.													
<b>h</b>	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-	0.													
<b>i</b>	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-	0.													
<b>j</b>	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.)

<b>Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period</b>					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2015	(b) 2016	(c) 2017	(d) 2018	(e) Total
<b>2a</b> Lobbying nontaxable amount	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	4,000,000.
<b>b</b> Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					6,000,000.
<b>c</b> Total lobbying expenditures	11,942.	66,809.	115,003.	256,683.	450,437.
<b>d</b> Grassroots nontaxable amount	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	1,000,000.
<b>e</b> Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					1,500,000.
<b>f</b> Grassroots lobbying expenditures	8,171.	10,454.	18,858.	124,725.	162,208.

**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
<b>1</b> 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:			
<b>a</b> Volunteers? .....			
<b>b</b> Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)? ..			
<b>c</b> Media advertisements? .....			
<b>d</b> Mailings to members, legislators, or the public? .....			
<b>e</b> Publications, or published or broadcast statements? .....			
<b>f</b> Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes? .....			
<b>g</b> Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body? .....			
<b>h</b> Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means? .....			
<b>i</b> Other activities? .....			
<b>j</b> Total. Add lines 1c through 1i .....			
<b>2a</b> Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)? .....			
<b>b</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912 .....			
<b>c</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912 .....			
<b>d</b> 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
<b>1</b> Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members? .....	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less? .....	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political campaign activity expenditures from the prior year? .....	<b>3</b>	

**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."**

<b>1</b> Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members .....	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
<b>a</b> Current year .....	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b> Carryover from last year .....	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b> Total .....	<b>2c</b>	
<b>3</b> Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues .....	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> 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? .....	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions) .....	<b>5</b>	

**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 SENIOR POLICY DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER AND DIRECTOR OF

ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR STEP UP FOR STUDENTS PLAYED A KEY ROLE

IN THE 2019 SESSION OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE. DURING THE SESSION,

LAWMAKERS CREATED A NEW DIRECT STATE-FUNDED PROGRAM CALLED THE FAMILY

EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP AND ALSO ADOPTED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TAX CREDIT



**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.**

▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2018**  
**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 7/25/06, 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 .....

**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
<b>c</b> Beginning balance	58,467,378.
<b>d</b> Additions during the year	128,658,297.
<b>e</b> Distributions during the year	104,943,286.
<b>f</b> Ending balance	82,182,389.

**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
<b>1a</b> Beginning of year balance					
<b>b</b> Contributions					
<b>c</b> Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
<b>d</b> Grants or scholarships					
<b>e</b> Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
<b>f</b> Administrative expenses					
<b>g</b> 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:

- (i)** unrelated organizations
- (ii)** related organizations

	Yes	No
<b>3a(i)</b>		
<b>3a(ii)</b>		
<b>3b</b>		

**b** If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

**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
<b>1a</b> Land				
<b>b</b> Buildings				
<b>c</b> Leasehold improvements		47,544.	35,453.	12,091.
<b>d</b> Equipment		4,589,724.	1,705,711.	2,884,013.
<b>e</b> Other				
<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)				2,896,104.

**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)		
<b>Total.</b> (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)		
<b>Total.</b> (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	82,182,389.
(2) DUE FROM AFFILIATES	8,770.
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	82,191,159.

**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)	
<b>Total.</b> (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.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	<b>1</b>	718,633,943.
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>2b</b>	394,276.
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants	<b>2c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>2d</b>	290,000.
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b>	<b>2e</b>	684,276.
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	717,949,667.
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:		
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>4b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b>	<b>4c</b>	0.
<b>5</b>	Total revenue. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	<b>5</b>	717,949,667.

**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.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	<b>1</b>	655,248,013.
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>2a</b>	394,276.
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Other losses	<b>2c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>2d</b>	65,186.
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b>	<b>2e</b>	459,462.
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	654,788,551.
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	<b>4b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b>	<b>4c</b>	0.
<b>5</b>	Total expenses. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	<b>5</b>	654,788,551.

**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 CREATED A SCHOLARSHIP FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

THAT 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,

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY AND COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

IN JUNE 2018, LEGISLATION CREATED A SCHOLARSHIP TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC

SUPPORT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOLS WHO

STRUGGLE IN READING THAT WAS SIGNED INTO LAW IN FLORIDA. THE SCHOLARSHIP

**Part XIII** Supplemental Information (continued)

IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN THIRD THROUGH FIFTH GRADE WHO HAVE SCORED A  
LEVEL 1 OR 2 ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SECTION OF THE FLORIDA STANDARDS  
ASSESSMENT. PARENTS USE THIS SCHOLARSHIP TO PAY FOR TUITION AND FEES  
RELATED TO PART-TIME TUTORING, SUMMER AND AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAMS,  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND MORE.

DURING THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018, STEP UP FOR STUDENTS  
DISTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY \$104.9 MILLION AND \$77.1 MILLION, LEAVING A  
BALANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$82.1 MILLION AND \$58.4 MILLION RESPECTIVELY,  
WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS  
BOTH AN ASSET AND A LIABILITY. STEP UP FOR STUDENTS IS ACTING AS AN AGENT  
FOR BOTH OF THESE PROGRAMS, THEREFORE, THERE ARE NO REVENUES AND EXPENSES  
REPORTED ON THE 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. 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 DISREGARDED ENTITY FOR

**Part XIII** Supplemental Information (continued)

FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX PURPOSES AND THEREFORE, REPORTS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE TAX INFORMATION THROUGH STEP UP FOR STUDENTS. ACCORDINGLY, NO PROVISION FOR FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES HAS BEEN RECORDED IN THE ACCOMPANYING CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

C2 IS A DISREGARDED ENTITY FOR FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX PURPOSES AND THEREFORE, REPORTS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX INFORMATION THROUGH STEP UP FOR STUDENTS. ACCORDINGLY, NO 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. 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, 2016.

PART XI, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:

ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY ACTION FUND REVENUES 290,000.

PART XII, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:

ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY ACTION FUND EXPENSES 65,186.

**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.**

▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2018**

**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.

<b>1 (a)</b> Name and address of organization or government	<b>(b)</b> EIN	<b>(c)</b> IRC section (if applicable)	<b>(d)</b> Amount of cash grant	<b>(e)</b> Amount of non-cash assistance	<b>(f)</b> Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	<b>(g)</b> Description of noncash assistance	<b>(h)</b> 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) (2018)

**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
FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	100415	615,252,820.	0.		
ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND	1568	8,781,932.	0.		
HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	128	290,968.	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

**2018**

Open to Public Inspection

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.  
 ▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

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
<b>1b</b>		
<b>2</b>		
<b>4a</b>		X
<b>4b</b>		X
<b>4c</b>		X
<b>5a</b>		X
<b>5b</b>		X
<b>6a</b>		X
<b>6b</b>		X
<b>7</b>		X
<b>8</b>		X
<b>9</b>		

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

Schedule J (Form 990) 2018

**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)	244,845.	0.	0.	14,940.	13,307.	273,092.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(2) ANNE WHITE CAO, SUFS	(i)	162,690.	0.	0.	10,145.	15,129.	187,964.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(3) JOE PFOUNTZ TREASURER & CFO, SUFS	(i)	194,872.	0.	0.	10,447.	14,607.	219,926.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(4) ALISSA RANDALL VP MARKETING & EVENTS, SUF	(i)	155,886.	0.	0.	9,516.	8,447.	173,849.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(5) JONATHAN BECKHAM VP INNOVATION	(i)	149,755.	0.	0.	9,425.	22,455.	181,635.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(6) GINA LYNCH VP OPERATIONS	(i)	145,642.	0.	0.	9,019.	12,807.	167,468.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(7) CAROL MACEDONIA VP STUDENT LEARNING	(i)	145,157.	0.	0.	8,841.	8,836.	162,834.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(8) JONATHAN EAST VP POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS	(i)	143,893.	0.	0.	8,729.	7,279.	159,901.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
	(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.

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2018**

Open to Public  
Inspection

Name of the organization

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.

Employer identification number

59-3649371

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

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS EMPOWERS PARENTS TO PURSUE AND ENGAGE IN THE MOST  
APPROPRIATE LEARNING OPTIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

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

FULFILL THE PROMISE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 2, NEW PROGRAM SERVICES:

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP CREATED:

IN MAY 2019, GOV. RON DESANTIS SIGNED INTO LAW THE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP, WHICH IS INTENDED TO HELP REDUCE THE WAITING LIST FOR THE  
TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP AND SIMILARLY SERVES STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME  
AND WORKING-CLASS HOUSEHOLDS. STEP UP WORKED DIRECTLY WITH THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER THIS SCHOLARSHIP AND ITS  
FIRST-YEAR GOAL IN 2019-20 IS TO SERVE 18,000 K-12 STUDENTS.

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

MATH AS STUDENTS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS NATIONALLY, EVEN AS THE STUDENTS  
WHO CHOSE THE SCHOLARSHIP WERE AMONG THE POOREST AND LOWEST-PERFORMING  
STUDENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THEY LEFT BEHIND. IN FEBRUARY 2019,  
THE URBAN INSTITUTE REPORTED THAT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ARE 43 PERCENT  
MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR PUBLIC-SCHOOL PEERS TO ATTEND COLLEGE AND 20  
PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO EARN BACHELOR'S DEGREES. FOR THE 14TH TIME, STEP  
UP FOR STUDENTS WAS AWARDED THE COVETED FOUR-STAR RATING BY CHARITY  
NAVIGATOR FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

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

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

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND STUDENT LEARNING: SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES NEED

POSITIVE, INFORMED PARTNERSHIPS AND STRONG LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS

CULTURE THAT IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. WITH THAT AS A

GUIDING MANTRA, THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2011

AND CONTINUES TO GROW TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR STEP UP SCHOLARS AND

THEIR FAMILIES. THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING OFFERS FREE STATEWIDE

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, INDIVIDUALIZED SCHOOL SUPPORT, COMMUNICATION

TOOLS, A STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM - THE TEACHING AND LEARNING

EXCHANGE, PARTNERSHIPS WITH NWEA FOR A MAP PROGRAM, CERTIFICATIONS FOR

OUR SCHOOL LEADERS, COUNCILS TO SUPPORT OUR GARDINER SCHOOLS AND

PARENTS AS WELL AS COMMITTEES TO SUPPORT OUR FLORIDA TAX CREDIT

PRINCIPALS. WE ALSO OFFER EVENTS LIKE THE RISING STARS WHERE STUDENTS

ARE RECONIZED AS SCHOLARS AND THEIR PARENTS AND SCHOOLS ARE ALSO

RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS. IN 2019, THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEARNING

HELD A CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS TO SUPPORT TEACHING, LEARNING AND

ASSESSMENT FOR THE FLORIDA TAX CREDIT AND GARDINER PROGRAMS.

EXPENSES \$ 1,785,546. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 41,782.

RESEARCH ON STUDENT OUTCOMES: EACH TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP IS INTENDED

TO PROVIDE A LOW-INCOME STUDENT IN FLORIDA WITH A VIABLE LEARNING

OPTION THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HIS OR HER EDUCATIONAL LIFE.

TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE, STEP UP CONTINUES TO BUILD TOOLS TO ROBUSTLY

ASSESS ACADEMIC PROGRESS. THE STATE COLLECTS STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

EVERY YEAR AND IN ITS MOST RECENT REPORT DETERMINED THAT SCHOLARSHIP

STUDENTS ACHIEVED THE SAME ACADEMIC GAINS IN READING AND MATH AS

STUDENTS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS NATIONALLY. STEP UP HAS COMPLETED A DATA

WAREHOUSE THAT PULLS TOGETHER STUDENT ACADEMIC, DEMOGRAPHIC AND

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

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION FOR MOST OF THE PROGRAM'S HISTORY. FURTHER, STEP

UP HAS INVITED RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS TO MINE STUDENT DATA, AND THE

URBAN INSTITUTE RELEASED A SECOND INDEPENDENT REPORT IN FEBRUARY 2019

FINDING THAT STUDENTS ON THE SCHOLARSHIP AT LEAST THREE YEARS ARE 43

PERCENT MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ATTEND

COLLEGE.

EXPENSES \$ 1,667,113. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 0.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: STEP UP FOR STUDENTS ALSO ADMINISTERS THE

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP, WHICH WAS CREATED IN 2018 TO PROVIDE THE OPTION OF

PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHO HAVE

EXPERIENCED ACTS OF BULLYING AND INTIMIDATION. THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE

FINANCED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUTOMOBILE BUYERS, WHO ARE ALLOWED UNDER

THE LAW TO REDIRECT UP TO \$105 OF THEIR STATE TAXES ON EACH PURCHASE.

THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE USED TO PROVIDE TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO

PARTICIPATING PRIVATE SCHOOLS WORTH UP TO \$7,111 OR A \$750

TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIP TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ANOTHER DISTRICT. THE

SCHOLARSHIP DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL OCTOBER 2018 AND SERVED 123 STUDENTS IN

ITS FIRST YEAR. ANY UNUSED FUNDS IN THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CAN

BE USED TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS ON THE FLORIDA TAX CREDIT

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE NEXT STATE OF FLORIDA FISCAL YEAR.

EXPENSES \$ 1,427,683. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 290,968. REVENUE \$ 0.

ILLINOIS INVEST IN KIDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: STEP UP FOR STUDENTS HAS

CONTRACTED WITH EMPOWER ILLINOIS, AN APPROVED 501(C)(3), SCHOLARSHIP

GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO) IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THAT ADMINISTERS

THE ILLINOIS INVEST IN KIDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, A TAX CREDIT

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. SINCE NOVEMBER 2017, STEP UP FOR STUDENTS HAS

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

PROVIDED SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR EMPOWER ILLINOIS.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS CAN SOLICIT AND RECEIVE CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL

CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ARE ENTITLED TO A 75% STATE TAX CREDIT OF CORPORATE

AND INDIVIDUAL STATE INCOME TAX. THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS, IN TURN MUST BE

SPENT TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOW INCOME ILLINOIS SCHOOL CHILDREN IN

COMPLIANCE WITH THE INVEST IN KIDS ACT. FOR THE 2019- 2020 SCHOOL

YEAR, QUALIFIED STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS OF UP TO \$13,336.64, OR

FOR INDIVIDUAL DISABILITY EDUCATION ACT STUDENTS, UP TO \$26,673.28, TO

ATTEND A PARTICIPATING PRIVATE SCHOOL WITHIN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE EXPENDED WHEN A STUDENT ATTENDS A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS ALLOWED TO USE UP TO 5% OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS

COLLECTED TO ADMINISTER THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AND STEP UP FOR

STUDENTS IS COMPENSATED FOR ITS WORK BY EMPOWER ILLINOIS VIA THOSE

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS. ACCORDING TO SUBMITTED AUDIT MATERIAL, FOR THE

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR, 32,456 APPLICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED AND RESERVED

FOR POTENTIAL REVIEW, WHICH LED TO HAVING 5,528 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

TOTALING \$37,008,673.

EXPENSES \$ 1,010,028. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 981,486.

ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (ACE): ACE THROUGH FLORIDA PARENT

NETWORK, ORGANIZES ADVOCATES AND SUPPORTERS WHO BELIEVE CHILDREN SHOULD

BE EDUCATED BASED ON HOW THEY LEARN, RATHER THAN WHERE THEY LIVE. THIS

INCLUDES PARENTS AND STUDENTS WHO UTILIZE SCHOLARSHIPS AS WELL AS

DISTRICT, CHARTER, MAGNET, HOME AND VIRTUAL SCHOOLS. THIS ALSO

INCLUDES TEACHERS, COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL LEADERS, FAITH-BASED LEADERS

AND ALUMNI. FLORIDA PARENT NETWORK EDUCATES, INFORMS AND TRAINS

ADVOCATES AND SUPPORTERS FOR THE PROTECTION AND EXPANSION OF EDUCATION

CHOICE. ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROVIDES THESE SERVICES TO

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

ADVOCATES PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE ORGANIZATION

AND TO ADVOCATES UTILIZING OTHER CHOICE OPTIONS UNDER CONTRACT SERVICE

AGREEMENTS WITH CHOICE ADVOCACY GROUPS.

EXPENSES \$ 934,496. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 424,301.

READING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: THE READING SCHOLARSHIP WAS CREATED IN

2018 TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN

DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOLS, WHO STRUGGLE IN READING. STEP UP FOR

STUDENTS, AS AN APPROVED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTERS

THE PROGRAM. THE SCHOLARSHIP IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN THIRD THROUGH

FIFTH GRADE WHO HAVE SCORED A LEVEL 1 OR 2 ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

SECTION OF THE FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT. EACH SCHOLARSHIP IS WORTH

\$500, WHICH THE PARENT CAN USE TO PAY FOR TUITION AND FEES RELATED TO

PART-TIME TUTORING, SUMMER AND AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAMS,

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND MORE. IN ITS FIRST YEAR, 2018-19, THE

SCHOLARSHIP SERVED 5,375 STUDENTS.

EXPENSES \$ 827,726. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 0.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP: IN MAY 2019, GOV. RON DESANTIS SIGNED

INTO LAW THE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP, WHICH IS INTENDED TO HELP

REDUCE THE WAITING LIST FOR THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP AND SIMILARLY

SERVES STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME AND WORKING-CLASS HOUSEHOLDS. STEP UP

WORKED DIRECTLY WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER

THIS SCHOLARSHIP AND ITS FIRST-YEAR GOAL IN 2019-20 IS TO SERVE 18,000

K-12 STUDENTS.

EXPENSES \$ 107,481. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 0.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 4:

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

THERE WAS A MINOR CHANGE TO THE BY-LAWS FOR STEP UP FOR STUDENTS IN  
 DECEMBER 2018. UNDER ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.4 UNDER DUTIES, WE ADDED DUTIES  
 FOR THE VICE CHAIR. THE DUTIES INCLUDE "THE VICE CHAIR SHALL BE PREPARED  
 AT ALL TIMES TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF BOARD CHAIR, IF NECESSARY. THE VICE  
 CHAIR, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE AND COMMITMENTS MIRRORS THAT OF THE CHAIR, MAY SERVE  
 IN THE CHAIR'S PLACE FOR BOARD ACTIVITIES AND IN THE SPOKESPERSON CAPACITY.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B:

FORM 990 IS PREPARED BY THE FUND'S INDEPENDENT CPA FIRM. 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:

THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEWS COMPARABLE  
 COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS DATA OF SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS. DURING FISCAL YEAR  
 2016, AN INDEPENDENT COMPENSATION CONSULTING FIRM CONDUCTED A FULL

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

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, LINE 17, LIST OF STATES RECEIVING COPY OF FORM 990:  
 AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, DC, GA, HI, IL, KS, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH  
 OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, AL, ND, MO

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 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.

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2018**

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	3,322,942.	7,589,479.	STEP UP FOR STUDENTS
C2 SCHOLARSHIPS - 83-2425710 2101 MAGNOLIA AVE S, STE 425 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205	SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING	ALABAMA	394,689.	322,027.	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
ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY ACTION FUND - 83-3979219 2101 MAGNOLIA AVE. S., STE. 425 BIRMIINGHAM, AL 35205	SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING	ALABAMA	501(C)(4)		STEP UP FOR STUDENTS		X

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

Schedule R (Form 990) 2018

**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.

**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?

	Yes	No
<b>a</b> Receipt of (i) interest, (ii) annuities, (iii) royalties, or (iv) rent from a controlled entity .....		X
<b>b</b> Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>c</b> Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>d</b> Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s) .....		X
<b>e</b> Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s) .....		X
<b>f</b> Dividends from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>g</b> Sale of assets to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>h</b> Purchase of assets from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>i</b> Exchange of assets with related organization(s) .....		X
<b>j</b> Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>k</b> Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>l</b> Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s) .....		X
<b>m</b> Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s) .....		X
<b>n</b> Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s) .....		X
<b>o</b> Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s) .....		X
<b>p</b> Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses .....		X
<b>q</b> Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses .....	X	
<b>r</b> Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>s</b> Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s) .....		X

**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) ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY ACTION FUND	Q	8,770.	FMV
(2) ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY ACTION FUND	N	0.	
(3) ALABAMA OPPORTUNITY ACTION FUND	O	0.	
(4)			
(5)			
(6)			





# Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **File a separate application for each return.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form8868](http://www.irs.gov/Form8868) for the latest information.**

**Electronic filing (e-file).** You can electronically file Form 8868 to request a 6-month automatic extension of time to file any of the forms listed below with the exception of Form 8870, Information Return for Transfers Associated With Certain Personal Benefit Contracts, for which an extension request must be sent to the IRS in paper format (see instructions). For more details on the electronic filing of this form, visit [www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/e-file-for-charities-and-non-profits](http://www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/e-file-for-charities-and-non-profits).

**Automatic 6-Month Extension of Time.** Only submit original (no copies needed).

All corporations required to file an income tax return other than Form 990-T (including 1120-C filers), partnerships, REMICs, and trusts must use Form 7004 to request an extension of time to file income tax returns.

	Enter filer's identifying number	
<b>Type or print</b>	Name of exempt organization or other filer, see instructions.  STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Employer identification number (EIN) or  59-3649371
File by the due date for filing your return. See instructions.	Number, street, and room or suite no. If a P.O. box, see instructions. 4655 SALISBURY ROAD, NO. 400	Social security number (SSN)
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. For a foreign address, see instructions. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256	

Enter the Return Code for the return that this application is for (file a separate application for each return) 0 1

Application Is For	Return Code	Application Is For	Return Code
Form 990 or Form 990-EZ	01	Form 990-T (corporation)	07
Form 990-BL	02	Form 1041-A	08
Form 4720 (individual)	03	Form 4720 (other than individual)	09
Form 990-PF	04	Form 5227	10
Form 990-T (sec. 401(a) or 408(a) trust)	05	Form 6069	11
Form 990-T (trust other than above)	06	Form 8870	12

JOE PFOUNTZ

- The books are in the care of ▶ 4655 SALISBURY RD, SUITE 400 - JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256  
Telephone No. ▶ 904-352-2246 Fax No. ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- If the organization does not have an office or place of business in the United States, check this box
- If this is for a Group Return, enter the organization's four digit Group Exemption Number (GEN) \_\_\_\_\_. If this is for the whole group, check this box . If it is for part of the group, check this box  and attach a list with the names and EINs of all members the extension is for.

**1** I request an automatic 6-month extension of time until MAY 15, 2020, to file the exempt organization return for the organization named above. The extension is for the organization's return for:  
 ▶  calendar year \_\_\_\_\_ or  
 ▶  tax year beginning JUL 1, 2018, and ending JUN 30, 2019.

**2** If the tax year entered in line 1 is for less than 12 months, check reason:  Initial return  Final return  
 Change in accounting period

<b>3a</b> If this application is for Forms 990-BL, 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter the tentative tax, less any nonrefundable credits. See instructions.	<b>3a</b>	\$	0.
<b>b</b> If this application is for Forms 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter any refundable credits and estimated tax payments made. Include any prior year overpayment allowed as a credit.	<b>3b</b>	\$	0.
<b>c Balance due.</b> Subtract line 3b from line 3a. Include your payment with this form, if required, by using EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System). See instructions.	<b>3c</b>	\$	0.

**Caution:** If you are going to make an electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) with this Form 8868, see Form 8453-EO and Form 8879-EO for payment instructions.

# **Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

Consolidated Financial Report  
June 30, 2019

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## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors  
Step Up For Students, Inc.

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of June 30, 2019, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries as of June 30, 2019, and the changes in their net assets and their cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Report on Summarized Comparative Information**

We have previously audited Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries' 2018 consolidated financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated October 30, 2018. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements from which it has been derived.

### **Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting**

As discussed in Note 1 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries adopted Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### **Other Matters – Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements as a whole. The accompanying consolidating statement of financial position and consolidating statement of activities is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance, as required by State of Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General*, is also presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the consolidated financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements or to the consolidated financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

### **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 18, 2019, on our consideration of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*RSM US LLP*

Orlando, Florida  
December 18, 2019

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

**June 30, 2019**

**(With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)**

	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 63,558,310	\$ 19,085,583
Pledges receivable, less allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$20,000,000 in 2019 and 2018	542,649,336	502,820,023
Accounts and grants receivable, less allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$661,235 and \$102,760 in 2019 and 2018, respectively	5,088,297	5,137,782
Prepaid expenses and other assets	858,639	701,402
Funds held in trust for students	82,182,389	58,467,378
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>694,336,971</b>	<b>586,212,168</b>
Restricted certificate of deposit	130,000	196,000
Property and equipment, net	2,896,104	2,986,165
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 697,363,075</b>	<b>\$ 589,394,333</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 828,692	\$ 289,742
Accrued expenses	2,262,437	1,946,954
Line of credit	35,000,000	14,986,632
Funds held in trust for students liability	82,182,389	58,467,378
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>120,273,518</b>	<b>75,690,706</b>
Commitments (Note 6)		
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	6,621,589	8,115,532
With donor restrictions	570,467,968	505,588,095
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>577,089,557</b>	<b>513,703,627</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 697,363,075</b>	<b>\$ 589,394,333</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Consolidated Statement of Activities**

**Year Ended June 30, 2019**

**(With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)**

	2019			Total 2018
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
Revenues and support:				
Contributions and grants:				
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, net	\$ 18,622,135	\$ 644,767,033	\$ 663,389,168	\$ 679,111,068
Hope Scholarship Program	1,264,022	40,870,044	42,134,066	-
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	180,772	3,439,665	3,620,437	21,009,746
Gardiner Scholarship Program	3,537,044	-	3,537,044	2,834,231
Reading Scholarship Program	84,280	-	84,280	-
Grants and other contributions	771,443	1,976,730	2,748,173	3,094,815
Other revenue and interest income	692,448	1,446,841	2,139,289	1,260,909
Scholarship service contract revenue	981,486	-	981,486	718,720
Net assets released from restrictions	627,620,440	(627,620,440)	-	-
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>653,754,070</b>	<b>64,879,873</b>	<b>718,633,943</b>	<b>708,029,489</b>
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	625,981,768	-	625,981,768	648,283,010
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	9,380,985	-	9,380,985	9,926,404
Gardiner Scholarship Program	4,993,457	-	4,993,457	3,418,161
School Development and Student Learning	1,785,546	-	1,785,546	1,893,947
Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	1,732,298	-	1,732,298	3,565,575
Hope Scholarship Program	1,427,683	-	1,427,683	151,511
Scholarship Service Contract	1,010,028	-	1,010,028	766,733
Advocacy and Civic Engagement	934,496	-	934,496	472,526
Reading Scholarship Program	827,726	-	827,726	126,091
Family Empowerment Scholarship	107,480	-	107,480	-
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>648,181,467</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,181,467</b>	<b>668,603,958</b>
Supporting services:				
General and administrative	4,399,635	-	4,399,635	3,918,934
Development and fundraising	2,666,911	-	2,666,911	2,449,330
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>7,066,546</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,066,546</b>	<b>6,368,264</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>655,248,013</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>655,248,013</b>	<b>674,972,222</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(1,493,943)</b>	<b>64,879,873</b>	<b>63,385,930</b>	<b>33,057,267</b>
Net assets:				
Beginning	8,115,532	505,588,095	513,703,627	480,646,360
Ending	\$ 6,621,589	\$ 570,467,968	\$ 577,089,557	\$ 513,703,627

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 2019

(With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)

	2019										
	Program Services										
	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Gardiner Scholarship Program	School Development and Student Learning	Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	Hope Scholarship Program	Scholarship Service Contract	Advocacy and Civic Engagement	Reading Scholarship Program	Family Empowerment Scholarship	Total Program Services
Scholarships and grants	\$ 615,252,820	\$ 8,781,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 290,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 624,325,720
Salaries and wages	5,475,165	224,085	3,537,075	921,703	895,571	850,646	494,778	257,410	524,890	89,553	13,270,876
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	1,617,979	37,469	451,716	300,930	272,298	43,842	104,335	77,665	34,912	14,688	2,955,834
Contract services	376,932	160,866	159,122	136,680	237,248	20,903	235,711	93,677	84,043	-	1,505,182
Other costs	842,721	27,915	86,285	108,298	87,426	22,887	20,913	143,101	23,938	198	1,363,682
Recruiting and advertising	475,133	12,011	225,012	-	10,716	73,668	6,656	8,240	52,763	26	864,225
Rent	266,321	25,064	157,461	57,623	50,230	33,895	33,895	27,116	33,895	-	685,500
Travel, lodging and meals	85,425	55,376	16,254	112,856	46,435	7,782	12,961	252,264	2,863	2,414	594,630
Depreciation	224,219	1,006	180,241	48,513	39,952	28,537	28,537	23,459	28,537	-	603,001
Professional fees	15,898	-	1,382	389	20,331	229	14,644	183	229	-	53,285
Write-off of school receivables	578,562	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	603,562
Repairs and maintenance	140,505	472	102,047	29,135	23,994	17,138	17,138	13,711	17,138	-	361,278
Printing and postage	154,155	12,913	11,019	19,509	2,708	9,711	14,314	8,707	4,356	-	237,392
Telephone	102,469	10,937	43,433	26,985	20,050	4,786	4,829	12,045	4,855	601	230,990
Bank charges and fees	244,662	-	(45,574)	-	-	10,191	-	-	3,121	-	212,400
Insurance	85,327	1,629	64,588	18,462	15,204	10,860	10,860	9,706	10,860	-	227,496
Office expenses	40,241	4,310	3,396	4,463	10,135	1,640	741	7,212	1,326	-	73,464
Temporary labor	3,234	-	-	-	-	-	9,716	-	-	-	12,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 625,981,768</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,985</b>	<b>\$ 4,993,457</b>	<b>\$ 1,785,546</b>	<b>\$ 1,732,298</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,683</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,028</b>	<b>\$ 934,496</b>	<b>\$ 827,726</b>	<b>\$ 107,480</b>	<b>\$ 648,181,467</b>

(Continued)

Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses (Continued)  
 Year Ended June 30, 2019  
 (With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)

	2019				
	Supporting Services				
	General and Administrative	Development and Fundraising	Total Supporting Services	Total Expenses	Total 2018 Expenses
Scholarships and grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 624,325,720	\$ 650,979,063
Salaries and wages	1,462,006	1,378,519	2,840,525	16,111,401	12,743,602
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	574,775	336,602	911,377	3,867,211	3,225,823
Contract services	829,035	86,613	915,648	2,420,830	1,847,534
Other costs	330,505	212,287	542,792	1,906,474	950,590
Recruiting and advertising	72,551	43,527	116,078	980,303	661,958
Rent	123,441	67,131	190,572	876,072	809,539
Travel, lodging and meals	126,364	147,256	273,620	868,250	616,355
Depreciation	100,760	54,849	155,609	758,610	384,633
Professional fees	499,164	125,436	624,600	677,885	507,403
Write-off of school receivables	-	-	-	603,562	126,721
Repairs and maintenance	72,916	32,563	105,479	466,757	408,807
Printing and postage	34,834	83,513	118,347	355,739	308,886
Telephone	31,703	36,768	68,471	299,461	384,792
Bank charges and fees	85,772	-	85,772	298,172	431,288
Insurance	39,435	21,652	61,087	288,583	274,012
Office expenses	16,374	40,195	56,569	130,033	143,806
Temporary labor	-	-	-	12,950	167,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,399,635</b>	<b>\$ 2,666,911</b>	<b>\$ 7,066,546</b>	<b>\$ 655,248,013</b>	<b>\$ 674,972,222</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**

**Year Ended June 30, 2019**

**(With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)**

	2019	2018
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ 63,385,930	\$ 33,057,267
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	758,610	384,633
Provision for uncollectible pledges	13,436,770	19,450,366
Write-off of school receivables	603,562	126,721
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in assets:		
Pledges receivable	(53,266,083)	(85,622,856)
Accounts and grants receivable	(554,077)	(3,671,712)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(157,237)	(122,190)
Funds held in trust for students	(23,715,011)	(22,236,359)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	538,950	148,977
Accrued expenses	315,483	372,792
Funds held in trust for students liability	23,715,011	22,236,359
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>25,061,908</b>	<b>(35,876,002)</b>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(668,549)	(1,957,806)
Decrease in restricted certificate of deposit	66,000	29,000
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(602,549)</b>	<b>(1,928,806)</b>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Borrowings on line of credit	90,000,000	20,000,000
Repayments on line of credit	(69,986,632)	(5,013,368)
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>20,013,368</b>	<b>14,986,632</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>44,472,727</b>	<b>(22,818,176)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Beginning	19,085,583	41,903,759
Ending	<b>\$ 63,558,310</b>	<b>\$ 19,085,583</b>
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the year for interest	<b>\$ 130,714</b>	<b>\$ 13,368</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies**

**Nature of organization:** The primary mission of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, the Organization) is to empower parents to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children, with an emphasis on families who lack the information and financial resources to access these options. By pursuing this mission, the Organization helps public education fulfill the promise of equal opportunity.

Step Up For Students, Inc. (Step Up For Students) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated on February 18, 2000. Through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Step Up For Students served 100,415 and 106,548 students in 1,811 and 1,818 private schools across Florida during the 2018 – 2019 and 2017 – 2018 school years, respectively.

Additionally, Step Up For Students administers the Gardiner Scholarship Program. The Gardiner Scholarship Program was created to provide the option for parents to better meet the individual educational needs of an eligible child. The Gardiner Scholarship Program provides eligible students a scholarship that can be used to purchase approved services or products. During the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, Step Up For Students administered the program on behalf of the State of Florida for 11,845 and 9,601 eligible children, respectively.

The Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund, LLC (Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund) is a not-for-profit limited liability company incorporated on October 4, 2013, whose sole member is Step Up For Students. The Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund was established to operate under the standards prescribed by the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. Through the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund K-12 scholarship program, 1,568 and 1,590 children received scholarships to attend private schools for the 2018 – 2019 and 2017 – 2018 school years, respectively.

The C2 Opportunity Scholarships, LLC (C2) is a not-for-profit limited liability company incorporated on November 28, 2018, whose sole member is Step Up For Students. C2 was established to operate under the standards prescribed by the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. Through the C2 K-12 scholarship program, there were no scholarships made during the year ended June 30, 2019.

The Alabama Opportunity Action Fund (AOAF) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated on March 15, 2019, affiliated to Step Up For Students through common control and management, with the support of the American Federation for Children to create positive grassroots and legislative influence for scholarship programs and school choice programs in Alabama. AOAF brought dozens of scholarship families from around the State to the Statehouse to share their stories with Legislators and ask them to continue supporting the scholarship program. Additionally, AOAF spent the session creating a grassroots team to support an education savings account for special needs students, which it continues to grow.

## Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

The following is a summary of the programs operated by the Organization:

- **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program:** Step Up For Students, Inc. is approved under Florida Statute 1002.395 to serve as a Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO). Since July 1, 2011, Step Up For Students has been the predominate Florida SFO. As an SFO, Step Up For Students can solicit and receive corporate contributions that are entitled to a state tax credit against 100% of corporate income tax, insurance premium tax, and direct-pay sales tax liabilities, 90% of alcoholic beverage tax liabilities, and 50% of oil and gas severance tax liabilities. Those contributions, in turn, must be spent to provide scholarships to low income Florida school children in compliance with the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. For the 2018 – 2019 school year and the 2017 – 2018 school year, qualified students received a maximum scholarship of \$7,111 and \$6,920, respectively, to attend a private school that have been approved by the State of Florida or \$750 for transportation to an out-of-district public school. Scholarships are expensed when a student attends a qualified school. Step Up For Students is allowed to use up to 3% of the contributions collected to administer the scholarship program.
- **Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program:** The Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund and C2 were established to operate under standards prescribed in the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 and is approved under the Alabama Department of Revenue to serve as a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). In accordance with the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 and the Administrative Rulings by the Alabama Department of Revenue, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund and C2 must use at least 95% of revenue from credit eligible scholarship donations and all interest and investment income attributable to these scholarship funds for educational scholarships. Therefore, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund and C2 may use no more than 5% of the amount of its scholarship donations for purposes other than making scholarship grants. As an SGO, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund and C2 can solicit and receive corporate and individual donations that entitle the donors to certain tax credits administrated by the Alabama Department of Revenue.
- **School Development and Student Learning:** This program oversees the process development intended to assist schools and families in establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships that ensure the academic, social and emotional success of every child; while at the same time, upholding the belief that the ultimate responsibility for the education of the child resides with the parent.
- **Gardiner Scholarship Program:** In June 2014, legislation creating scholarships for special needs children was signed into law in Florida. This scholarship is for Florida students in kindergarten through 12th grade with one of the following disabilities: Autism, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Spina bifida, Williams syndrome, Intellectual Disability (severe cognitive impairment), Phelan McDermid Syndrome, rare diseases as defined by the National Organization for Rare Disorders, Anaphylaxis, deaf, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired, traumatic brain injured, hospital or home bound. Also, kindergarten students deemed "high risk" because of developmental delays may be eligible. The students need either an Individual Education Plan (IEP) from a Florida school district or a formal diagnosis from a licensed physician or psychologist to qualify. Students can participate in this scholarship as part of home education; however, they cannot be enrolled in a public school or be receiving any other state-sponsored scholarship, including the McKay Scholarship or the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. 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, curriculum and technology and college savings accounts.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

Step Up For Students, per the provisions of state statute, receives an administrative fee of 3% of funded scholarships from the State of Florida to cover the administration of the program on behalf of the State of Florida. During the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, Step Up For Students received an administrative fee for administering the program on behalf of the State of Florida in the amount of approximately \$3,537,000 and \$2,834,000, respectively.

During the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, Step Up For Students distributed approximately \$97.8 million and \$77.2 million, leaving a balance of approximately \$79.5 million and \$58.5 million, respectively, which is recorded in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position as both an asset and liability. Step Up For Students is acting as an agent for this program; therefore, there are no revenues and expenses reported on the accompanying consolidated statement of activities for scholarship funds received and distributed from the State of Florida.

- **Communications, Policy and Public Affairs:** This program takes the message of the scholarship program to constituency groups, community and political leaders, and local, state and national news publications. It creates monthly student spotlights, issues press releases on topics of special concern, writes commentary for various publications and publishes a newsletter. The group also analyzes demographic, achievement and participation data and trends in the program and school choice movement.
- **Advocacy and Civic Engagement:** This program, through the Florida Parent Network, organizes parents and supporters who believe children should be educated based on how they learn, rather than where they live. This includes parents who utilize scholarships as well as charter, magnet, home and virtual schools. The Florida Parent Network educates, informs and trains parents to be advocates and supporters for the protections and expansion of choice opportunities. Advocacy and civic engagement provides these services to parents of children participating in programs administered by the Organization and to parents utilizing other choice options under contract service agreements with choice advocacy groups.
- **Scholarship Service Contract:** Step Up For Students has contracted with Empower Illinois, an approved 501(c)(3), Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) in the State of Illinois, that administers the Illinois Invest in Kids Scholarship program, a tax credit scholarship program. Effective November 2017, Step Up For Students has provided scholarship administration services for Empower Illinois, both in-house and through a third-party partner. Empower Illinois can solicit and receive corporate and individual contributions that are entitled to a 75% state tax credit of corporate and individual state income tax. Those contributions, in turn must be spent to provide scholarships to low income Illinois school children in compliance with the Invest in Kids Act. For the 2018 – 2019 school year, qualified students received scholarships of up to \$13,336, or for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act students, up to \$26,673, to attend a participating private school within the State of Illinois. Scholarships are expended when a student attends a participating school. Empower Illinois is allowed to use up to 5% of the contributions collected to administer this program, and Step Up For Students is compensated for its work by Empower Illinois via those administrative funds.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

- **Hope Scholarship Program:** The Hope Scholarship Program was established by Florida Statute 1002.40, which was created in 2018 to provide the option of private-school scholarships to students in public schools who have experienced acts of bullying and intimidation. Step Up For Students, as an approved Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO), is authorized to administer Hope Scholarships. The Hope law provides that automobile buyers may redirect up to \$105 of their state taxes on each purchase toward an authorized SFO. Those contributions must be used to provide tuition scholarships to participating private schools or a \$750 transportation scholarship to a public school in another district. Any unused funds in the Hope Scholarship Program can be used to fund scholarships to students in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program in the next State of Florida fiscal year. The maximum tuition scholarships for 2018 – 2019 are \$6,519 for elementary grades, \$6,815 for middle school and \$7,111 for high school. Step Up for Students is allowed to use up to 3% of the contributions to administer the scholarship. The Hope Scholarship Program became effective for the 2018 – 2019 school year and served 128 students. During the year ended June 30, 2019, Step Up For Students collected \$42,134,066 of eligible contributions. Step Up For Students claimed an administrative allowance of \$1,264,022 and expended \$290,968 for scholarships during the year ended June 30, 2019.
- **Reading Scholarship Program:** The Reading Scholarship Program was established by Florida Statute 1002.411, which was created in 2018 to provide academic support for elementary school students who struggle in reading in district or charter schools. Step Up For Students, as an approved Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO), is authorized to administer the program. The scholarship is available to students in third- through fifth-grade who have scored a Level 1 or 2 on the English Language Arts section of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). Each scholarship is worth \$500, which the parent can use to pay for tuition and fees related to part-time tutoring, summer and after-school literacy programs, instructional materials and more. The funding is from direct state appropriation. A Reading Scholarship account is established for each child that is awarded a reading scholarship. The Reading Scholarship Program became effective for the 2018 – 2019 school year and served 5,658 students.

Step Up For Students, per the provisions of state statute, receives an administrative fee of 3% of funded scholarships from the State of Florida to cover the administration of the program on behalf of the State of Florida. During the year ended June 30, 2019, Step Up For Students received an administrative fee for administering the program on behalf of the State of Florida in the amount of approximately \$84,000.

During the year ended June 30, 2019, Step Up For Students distributed approximately \$304,000, leaving a balance of approximately \$2.7 million, which is recorded in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position as both an asset and liability. Step Up For Students is acting as an agent for this program, therefore, there are no revenues and expenses reported on the accompanying consolidated statement of activities for scholarship funds received and distributed from the State of Florida.

- **Family Empowerment Scholarship:** In May 2019, Governor Ron Desantis signed into law the Family Empowerment Scholarship, which is intended to help reduce the waiting list for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and similarly services students from low-income and working-class households. Step Up For Students worked directly with the State Department of Education to administer this scholarship and its first-year goal in 2019 – 2020 is to serve 18,000 K-12 students.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

A summary of the Organization's significant accounting policies follows:

**Principles of consolidation:** The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Step Up For Students and its wholly owned subsidiaries, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund, LLC and C2 Opportunity Scholarships, LLC. In addition, the consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Alabama Opportunity Action Fund, which is affiliated to Step Up For Students through common control and management. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Comparative financial statements:** The consolidated financial statements include certain prior-year summarized comparative information in total but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the Organization's consolidated financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2018, from which the summarized information was derived.

**Use of estimates:** The presentation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and support, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Basis of presentation:** The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

A not-for-profit organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions. Accordingly, net assets of the Organization and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

**Net assets without donor restrictions:** Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations, but may be designated for specific purposes by action of the Board of Directors.

**Net assets with donor restrictions:** Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met either by actions of the Organization, passage of time, or permanently maintained by the Organization. When a restriction expires, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the consolidated statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

**Cash and cash equivalents:** For purposes of the consolidated statement of cash flows, the Organization considers all short-term securities purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents excludes funds held in trust for students.

The Organization maintains their cash accounts at commercial banks, which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Balances exceed amounts insured by the FDIC and the Organization has not experienced any losses on such accounts. To help reduce any potential losses, excess balances are swept into a money market fund, which is invested in U.S. Government Obligations.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Pledges receivable, contributions and grants:** Contributions and grants are recorded in the period received at fair value as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions support depending on the existence or nature of any donor restrictions. Contributions and grants that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions depending on the nature of the restrictions. When time restrictions expire or purpose restrictions are fulfilled, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions.

Unconditional promises to give (pledges) are recognized as support in the period received at fair value. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. The Organization uses the allowance method to determine uncollectible pledges receivable. The allowance is established based upon management's analysis of specific pledges and other economic factors. The Organization has received promises to give from corporations for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, from corporations and individuals for the Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program, and from private foundations.

Pledges, which become uncollectible or for which an allowance is established in the year of the pledge, are written off against contribution revenue. Pledges which become uncollectible in subsequent years are charged to the allowance for uncollectible pledges.

Contributed services are recognized and reported at fair value in the period received, if the services received create or enhance non-financial assets or require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by contribution. There were no contributed services for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

**Accounts and grants receivable:** Accounts and grants receivable are stated at net realizable value. The Organization uses the allowance method to determine uncollectible accounts receivable. The allowance is established based upon management's analysis of specific accounts and other economic factors. In the opinion of management, an allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$661,235 and \$102,760 was considered necessary at June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

**Restricted certificate of deposit:** Restricted certificate of deposit held by the Organization represents funds required to be set aside by the lessor relating to an office lease signed by the Organization in 2015 for collateral and is carried at amortized cost.

**Property and equipment:** Property and equipment are recorded at cost when purchased or at fair value at the date of gift, if contributed. Depreciation of property and equipment is computed using the straight-line method of accounting over the estimated useful lives of the depreciable assets. Routine maintenance and repair costs are charged to expense as incurred, while major replacements and improvements are capitalized as additions to the related assets. When assets are sold or retired, the related cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts and gains or losses from dispositions are credited or charged to income.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Impairment of long-lived assets:** The carrying value of property and equipment is reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate such value may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets or asset groups to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset or asset group to future net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset or asset group. If such assets or asset groups are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets or asset group. Assets or asset groups to be disposed of are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less cost to sell. No impairment of the Organization's long-lived assets or asset groups have been recognized during the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

**Funds held in trust for students and funds held in trust for students liability:** Funds held in trust for students and funds held in trust for students liability represents funds received for the Gardiner Scholarship Program and the Reading Scholarship Program. A Gardiner Scholarship account is established for each child that is awarded a special needs scholarship and a Reading Scholarship account is established for each child that is awarded a reading scholarship. As parents use these funds in accordance with State of Florida guidelines, the asset and liability are reduced accordingly. The following represents a breakout of the funds held in trust for students and funds held in trust for students liability at June 30, 2019 and 2018:

	2019	2018
Gardiner Scholarship Program	\$ 79,443,366	\$ 58,467,378
Reading Scholarship Program	2,739,023	-
	<u>\$ 82,182,389</u>	<u>\$ 58,467,378</u>

**Functional expenses:** The costs of providing the various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the consolidated statement of activities and in the consolidated statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the various programs and supporting services benefited. Salaries and related payroll expenses are allocated among functional categories based on the estimated proportion of time spent to each function. All other expenses are allocated based on management's estimate of the relative functional activity.

**Income taxes:** 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 accompanying consolidated 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. 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 disregarded entity for federal and state income tax purposes and, therefore, reports all federal and state tax information through Step Up For Students. Accordingly, no provision for federal and state income taxes has been recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

C2 is a disregarded entity for federal and state income tax purposes and, therefore, reports all federal and state tax information through Step Up For Students. Accordingly, no provision for federal and state income taxes has been recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

## **Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

AOAF is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and from state income taxes under similar provisions of the Alabama Statutes. Accordingly, no provision for federal and state income taxes has been recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

The Organization 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 accompanying consolidated financial statements. Generally, the Organization is no longer subject to U.S. federal or state income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before June 30, 2016.

**Recent accounting pronouncements:** In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*, requiring an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The update will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in U.S. GAAP when it becomes effective and permits the use of either a full retrospective or retrospective with cumulative effect transition method. The updated standard will become effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. The Organization has not yet selected a transition method and is currently evaluating the impact this ASU will have on its consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued its new lease accounting guidance in ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*. Under the new guidance, lessees will be required to recognize the following for all leases (with the exception of short-term leases) at the commencement date: (1) A lease liability, which is a lessee's obligation to make lease payments arising from a lease, measured on a discounted basis; and (2) A right-of-use asset, which is an asset that represents the lessee's right to use, or control the use of, a specified asset for the lease term. Lessees will no longer be provided with a source of off-balance sheet financing. Lessees must apply a modified retrospective transition approach for leases existing at, or entered into after, the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented in the financial statements. Nonpublic entities should apply the amendments for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019. The Organization is currently evaluating the impact this ASU will have on its consolidated financial statements.

The FASB has issued certain new or modifications to, or interpretations of, existing accounting guidance in addition to the ASU's described above. The Organization has considered the new pronouncements and does not believe that any other new or modified guidance will have a material impact on the Organization's reported financial position or activities in the near term.

**Change in accounting:** In August 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. ASU No. 2016-14 changes presentation and disclosure requirements for not-for-profit entities to provide qualitative and quantitative requirements as follows:

- Net assets presentation in two categories – net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restrictions;
- Presentation of investment income net of investment expenses;
- Analysis of expenses by both natural and functional classification;
- Liquidity and availability of resources disclosure requirement;
- Presentation of operating cash flows either direct or indirect method; permits the use of direct method without reconciliation of change in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities.

**Note 1. Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

As the result of ASU No. 2016-14 adoption, the Organization has adjusted the presentation of these consolidated financial statements accordingly. The ASU has been applied retrospectively to all periods presented.

**Subsequent events:** Management has assessed subsequent events through December 18, 2019, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

**Note 2. Tax Credit Scholarship Programs and Scholarships Awarded**

**Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Scholarships Awarded** – Florida Statutes permit Scholarship Funding Organizations participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program to use up to 3% of eligible contributions received for administrative expenses. Scholarship Funding Organizations must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an amount equal to or greater than 75% of the net eligible contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the year in which such contributions are collected. No more than 25% of such net eligible contributions may be carried forward for expenditure to the following year. During the year ended June 30, 2019, Step Up For Students collected \$615,088,723 of eligible contributions. Step Up For Students claimed an administrative allowance of \$18,452,512 and expended \$615,252,820 for scholarships during the year ended June 30, 2019. During the year ended June 30, 2018, Step Up For Students collected \$611,426,578 of eligible contributions. Step Up For Students claimed an administrative allowance of \$18,342,797 and expended \$641,591,249 for scholarships during the year ended June 30, 2018. During the year ended June 30, 2019, Step Up For Students received transferred funds from another SGO amounting to \$8,481,132 in which Step Up For Students was entitled to a 2% administrative allowance of \$169,623.

Scholarships under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program are awarded annually to qualified students. To qualify for a scholarship, a student and the parents or guardian of that student must meet economic need requirements, enroll in an eligible private school and comply with certain other responsibilities for program participation. Scholarships for the 2018 – 2019 and 2017 – 2018 school years could not exceed \$7,111 and \$6,920, respectively. The scholarship checks are made payable to the student's parent or guardian and the private school. The checks are mailed to the schools in quarterly installments. Before the mailing, the schools verify the students' attendance and that the students' parents or guardians have complied with their responsibilities under the program. Both the parents or guardians and schools endorse the checks before they are deposited into the schools' bank accounts.

**Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Scholarships Awarded** – The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 and the Administrative Rulings by the Alabama Department of Revenue permit Scholarship Granting Organizations participating in the Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program to use up to 5% of eligible contributions received for administrative expenses. Scholarship Granting Organizations must expend for scholarships an amount equal to or greater than 95% of the net eligible contributions remaining after administrative expenses. During the year ended June 30, 2019, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund collected \$3,339,900 of eligible contributions. The Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund claimed an administrative allowance of \$166,995 and expended \$8,781,932 for scholarships during the year ended June 30, 2019. During the year ended June 30, 2018, the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund collected \$22,521,746 of eligible contributions. The Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund claimed an administrative allowance of \$1,126,045 and expended \$9,387,814 for scholarships during the year ended June 30, 2018. During the year ended June 30, 2019, C2 collected \$275,537 of eligible contributions. C2 claimed an administrative allowance of \$13,777 and there were amounts expended for scholarships during the year ended June 30, 2019.

**Note 2. Tax Credit Scholarship Programs and Scholarships Awarded (Continued)**

Scholarships under the Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program are awarded annually to qualified students. To qualify for a scholarship, a student and the parents or guardian of that student must meet economic need requirements, enroll in an eligible private school and comply with certain other responsibilities for program participation.

**Note 3. Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment consisted of the following at June 30:

	2019	2018
Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,320,061	\$ 1,505,601
Software	3,269,663	3,358,716
Leasehold improvements	47,544	58,625
	<u>4,637,268</u>	<u>4,922,942</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,741,164)	(1,936,777)
	<u>\$ 2,896,104</u>	<u>\$ 2,986,165</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, was \$758,610 and \$384,633, respectively.

**Note 4. Line of Credit**

Step Up For Students has a \$40,000,000 line of credit agreement with a bank bearing interest at the one-month LIBOR interest rate plus 1.5% (4.0% at June 30, 2019). Interest on the line of credit is payable monthly and matures on April 29, 2020. The line of credit is collateralized by substantially all the assets of Step Up For Students. The Organization maintains the line of credit for the purpose of funding Florida Tax Credit Scholarship commitments in the event that expected contributions from donors are delayed. The line of credit had an outstanding balance of \$35,000,000 and \$14,986,632 at June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. On September 30, 2019, the line of credit was increased to \$60,000,000.

The outstanding balances were utilized to fund scholarships for the last distributions of the fiscal year for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. During 2019, several donors took advantage of a change in the statutory program provisions that allowed them to make donation payments up to the due date for submission of their tax returns. As such, pledges receivable increased by \$39,829,313 during 2019 and the Organization used the line of credit to offset these delayed receipts. The outstanding balances were repaid in full on July 2, 2019 and July 5, 2018 for the year ended 2019 and 2018, respectively.

**Note 5. Net Assets**

Net assets without donor restrictions are available for the following purposes at June 30:

	2019	2018
Undesignated	\$ 5,338,047	\$ 8,115,532
Board designated for specified purposes	1,283,542	-
	<u>\$ 6,621,589</u>	<u>\$ 8,115,532</u>

**Note 5. Net Assets (Continued)**

Net assets with donor restrictions are available for the following purposes at June 30:

	2019	2018
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	\$ 521,424,386	\$ 491,496,263
Hope Scholarship	40,840,971	-
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	7,548,453	12,937,978
Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	654,158	1,153,854
	<u>\$ 570,467,968</u>	<u>\$ 505,588,095</u>

Net assets with donor restrictions were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the purpose specified by donors as follows:

	2019	2018
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	\$ 615,886,182	\$ 641,657,071
Hope Scholarship	290,968	-
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	9,226,864	9,910,152
Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	2,216,426	1,309,560
	<u>\$ 627,620,440</u>	<u>\$ 652,876,783</u>

**Note 6. Commitments**

The Organization leases certain office equipment and office space under operating leases which expire at various dates through August 2021. Rent expense for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, was \$876,072 and \$809,539, respectively.

Minimum future annual lease payments under operating leases are as follows:

Years ending June 30:	
2020	\$ 605,719
2021	3,896
2022	649
	<u>\$ 610,264</u>

## Note 7. Liquidity and Availability of Resources

As of June 30, 2019, the following reflects the Organization's financial assets, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions, board designations and amounts used to repay the line of credit on July 2, 2019 within one year of June 30, 2019.

Financial assets, at year-end	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 63,558,310
Pledges receivable, net	542,649,336
Accounts and grants receivable, net	5,088,297
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to:	
Contractual or donor-imposed restrictions:	
Restricted by donors with purpose restrictions	(570,467,968)
Board designations:	
Board designated for Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	(1,283,542)
Repayment of line of credit on July 2, 2019	<u>(35,000,000)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u><u>\$ 4,544,433</u></u>

The Organization's goal is to manage its tax-credited fundraising and associated scholarship commitments such that as many students as possible receive a scholarship while maintaining a 5% reserve of the funds received (approximately \$32.5 million). The purpose of that reserve is to provide for timing differences and potential rescindments by donors.

Historically, the Organization pays scholarship payments four times per year during the school year, the timing for which is established based on historical fundraising trends such that sufficient donations are received prior to each payment. Donations received between scholarship payments are invested in short-term U.S. Treasury instruments, the interest from which is designated by the Board of Directors to fund scholarships. The Company maintains a \$40 million line of credit (increased to \$60 million on September 30, 2019) for the purpose of funding scholarship commitments in the event that expected contributions from donors are delayed.

As of the statement of financial position date, the Organization has materially paid all scholarship commitments as the school year had ended for all of its scholarship recipients. During 2019, donors took advantage of a new statutory provision that allowed them to delay their contributions as long as they reserved their credits with the State of Florida prior to the end of their fiscal year. This new provision contributed to the delay of approximately \$56 million in tax-credited donations from 2019 to 2020, which significantly impacted cash flow forecasts. Accordingly, the Organization borrowed \$35 million in June 2019 to fund the final major distribution of the 2019 school year. The full amount was repaid on July 2, 2019, as sufficient funds were available.

## Note 8. Major Donors

*Step Up For Students:* Contributions from one major donor accounted for approximately 22.4% of contributions and grants – Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program during the year ended June 30, 2019. At June 30, 2019, approximately 26.7% of pledges receivable are due from this major donor. Contributions from two major donors accounted for approximately 32.0% of contributions and grants – Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program during the year ended June 30, 2018. At June 30, 2018, approximately 34.4% of pledges receivable are due from these major donors.

**Note 8. Major Donors (Continued)**

*Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund:* Contributions from one major donor accounted for approximately 44.8% of contributions and grants – Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program during the year ended June 30, 2019. Contributions from one major donor accounted for approximately 14.3% of contributions and grants – Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program during the year ended June 30, 2018.

C2: Contributions from one major donor accounted for approximately 14.5% of contributions and grants – Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program during the year ended June 30, 2019.

**Note 9. Retirement Plan**

The Organization has a defined contribution 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan). All employees who meet certain age and service requirements are eligible to participate in the Plan. The Plan provides for salary reduction contributions from employees up to the federal tax limit according to the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, there could be additional retirement benefits from discretionary employer contributions. Contributions to this Plan for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, were \$756,938 and \$658,683, respectively, which is included in payroll taxes and employee benefits in the accompanying consolidated statement of functional expenses.

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Consolidating Statement of Financial Position  
June 30, 2019**

	Step Up For Students, Inc.	Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund, LLC	C2 Opportunity Scholarships, LLC	Alabama Opportunity Action Fund	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Assets</b>						
Current assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 55,486,043	\$ 7,614,360	\$ 341,702	\$ 116,205	\$ -	\$ 63,558,310
Pledges receivable, net	542,644,336	5,000	-	-	-	542,649,336
Accounts and grants receivable, net	4,888,036	75,261	-	125,000	-	5,088,297
Prepaid expenses and other assets	835,210	23,429	-	-	-	858,639
Funds held in trust for students	82,182,389	-	-	-	-	82,182,389
Due from related party	61,075	-	-	-	(61,075)	-
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>686,097,089</b>	<b>7,718,050</b>	<b>341,702</b>	<b>241,205</b>	<b>(61,075)</b>	<b>694,336,971</b>
Restricted certificate of deposit	130,000	-	-	-	-	130,000
Property and equipment, net	2,883,967	12,137	-	-	-	2,896,104
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 689,111,056</b>	<b>\$ 7,730,187</b>	<b>\$ 341,702</b>	<b>\$ 241,205</b>	<b>\$ (61,075)</b>	<b>\$ 697,363,075</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>						
Current liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ 774,599	\$ 54,093	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 828,692
Accrued expenses	2,200,830	47,303	6,683	7,621	-	2,262,437
Line of credit	35,000,000	-	-	-	-	35,000,000
Funds held in trust for students liability	82,182,389	-	-	-	-	82,182,389
Due to related party	-	39,312	12,993	8,770	(61,075)	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>120,157,818</b>	<b>140,708</b>	<b>19,676</b>	<b>16,391</b>	<b>(61,075)</b>	<b>120,273,518</b>
Net assets:						
With donor restrictions	6,258,537	302,786	60,266	-	-	6,621,589
Without donor restrictions	562,694,701	7,286,693	261,760	224,814	-	570,467,968
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>568,953,238</b>	<b>7,589,479</b>	<b>322,026</b>	<b>224,814</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>577,089,557</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 689,111,056</b>	<b>\$ 7,730,187</b>	<b>\$ 341,702</b>	<b>\$ 241,205</b>	<b>\$ (61,075)</b>	<b>\$ 697,363,075</b>

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Consolidating Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 2019**

	Step Up For Students, Inc.			Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund, LLC		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and support:						
Contributions and grants:						
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, net	\$ 18,622,135	\$ 644,767,033	\$ 663,389,168	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hope Scholarship Program	1,264,022	40,870,044	42,134,066	-	-	-
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	-	-	-	166,995	3,177,905	3,344,900
Gardiner Scholarship Program	3,537,044	-	3,537,044	-	-	-
Reading Scholarship Program	84,280	-	84,280	-	-	-
Grants and other contributions	651,991	1,426,730	2,078,721	300	210,000	210,300
Other revenue and interest income	692,448	1,309,167	2,001,615	-	137,674	137,674
Scholarship service contract revenue	981,486	-	981,486	-	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions	618,328,390	(618,328,390)	-	9,176,864	(9,176,864)	-
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>644,161,796</b>	<b>70,044,584</b>	<b>714,206,380</b>	<b>9,344,159</b>	<b>(5,651,285)</b>	<b>3,692,874</b>
Expenses:						
Program services:						
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	625,981,768	-	625,981,768	-	-	-
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	-	-	-	9,360,220	-	9,360,220
Gardiner Scholarship Program	4,993,457	-	4,993,457	-	-	-
School Development and Student Learning	1,785,546	-	1,785,546	-	-	-
Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	1,667,112	-	1,667,112	-	-	-
Hope Scholarship Program	1,427,683	-	1,427,683	-	-	-
Scholarship Service Contract	1,010,028	-	1,010,028	-	-	-
Advocacy and Civic Engagement	923,754	-	923,754	10,612	-	10,612
Reading Scholarship Program	827,726	-	827,726	-	-	-
Family Empowerment Scholarship	107,480	-	107,480	-	-	-
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>638,724,554</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>638,724,554</b>	<b>9,370,832</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,370,832</b>
Supporting services:						
General and administrative	4,108,789	-	4,108,789	236,594	-	236,594
Development and fundraising	2,508,286	-	2,508,286	111,109	-	111,109
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>6,617,075</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,617,075</b>	<b>347,703</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>347,703</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>645,341,629</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>645,341,629</b>	<b>9,718,535</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,718,535</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(1,179,833)</b>	<b>70,044,584</b>	<b>68,864,751</b>	<b>(374,376)</b>	<b>(5,651,285)</b>	<b>(6,025,661)</b>
Net assets:						
Beginning	7,438,370	492,650,117	500,088,487	677,162	12,937,978	13,615,140
Ending	\$ 6,258,537	\$ 562,694,701	\$ 568,953,238	\$ 302,786	\$ 7,286,693	\$ 7,589,479

Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidating Statement of Activities (Continued)  
Year Ended June 30, 2019

	C2 Opportunity Scholarships, LLC			Alabama Opportunity Action Fund			Consolidated
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
Revenues and support:							
Contributions and grants:							
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, net	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 663,389,168
Hope Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,134,066
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	13,777	261,760	275,537	-	-	-	3,620,437
Gardiner Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,537,044
Reading Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,280
Grants and other contributions	119,152	50,000	169,152	-	290,000	290,000	2,748,173
Other revenue and interest income	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,139,289
Scholarship service contract revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	981,486
Net assets released from restrictions	50,000	(50,000)	-	65,186	(65,186)	-	-
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>182,929</b>	<b>261,760</b>	<b>444,689</b>	<b>65,186</b>	<b>224,814</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>718,633,943</b>
Expenses:							
Program services:							
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	625,981,768
Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	20,765	-	20,765	-	-	-	9,380,985
Gardiner Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,993,457
School Development and Student Learning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,785,546
Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	-	-	-	65,186	-	65,186	1,732,298
Hope Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,427,683
Scholarship Service Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,010,028
Advocacy and Civic Engagement	130	-	130	-	-	-	934,496
Reading Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	827,726
Family Empowerment Scholarship	-	-	-	-	-	-	107,480
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>20,895</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,895</b>	<b>65,186</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,186</b>	<b>648,181,467</b>
Supporting services:							
General and administrative	54,252	-	54,252	-	-	-	4,399,635
Development and fundraising	47,516	-	47,516	-	-	-	2,666,911
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>101,768</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101,768</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,066,546</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>122,663</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>122,663</b>	<b>65,186</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,186</b>	<b>655,248,013</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>60,266</b>	<b>261,760</b>	<b>322,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>224,814</b>	<b>224,814</b>	<b>63,385,930</b>
Net assets:							
Beginning	-	-	-	-	-	-	513,703,627
Ending	\$ 60,266	\$ 261,760	\$ 322,026	\$ -	\$ 224,814	\$ 224,814	\$ 577,089,557

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance  
Year Ended June 30, 2019**

<b>Grantor/Program Title</b>	<b>State CSFA Number</b>	<b>Contract/ Grant Number</b>	<b>State Expenditures</b>
<b>State Financial Assistance</b>			
Florida Department of Education and Commissioner of Education:			
Gardiner Scholarship Program	48.113	92X-90025-9D001	\$ 101,368,773
Reading Scholarship Accounts Program	48.157	92X-90550-9D001	<u>388,324</u>
<b>Total expenditures of state financial assistance</b>			<u><u>\$ 101,757,097</u></u>

See notes to schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance.

**Note 1. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance (the Schedule) includes the state financial assistance project activity of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Organization) under programs of the State of Florida for the year ended June 30, 2019. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of the State of Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General*. Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Organization, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets or cash flows of the Organization.

**Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are recognized on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are reported following the cost principles established by the State of Florida Department of Financial Services, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Pass-through entity identifying numbers (contract or grant number) are presented where available.

Step Up For Students is acting as an agent for the Gardiner Scholarship Program; therefore, there are no revenues and expenses reported on the accompanying consolidated statement of activities for scholarship funds received and distributed from the State of Florida. The expenditures reported as state financial assistance on the Schedule represent amounts distributed for reimbursement of program-related educational expenditures on behalf of eligible children, which totaled \$97,831,729 and \$3,537,044 received from the State of Florida, which were used to pay administrative expenses for the administration of the program on behalf of the State of Florida.

Step Up For Students is acting as an agent for the Reading Scholarship Accounts Program; therefore, there are no revenues and expenses reported on the accompanying consolidated statement of activities for scholarship funds received and distributed from the State of Florida. The expenditures reported as state financial assistance on the Schedule represent amounts distributed for reimbursement of program-related expenditures on behalf of eligible children, which totaled \$304,044 and \$84,280 received from the State of Florida, which were used to pay administrative expenses for the administration of the program on behalf of the State of Florida.

**Note 3. Subrecipients**

There was no state financial assistance passed through to subrecipients by the Organization.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting  
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial  
Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

**Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Board of Directors  
Step Up For Students, Inc.

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the consolidated financial statements of Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Organization), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of June 30, 2019, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 18, 2019.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the consolidated financial statements, we considered the Organization's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

**Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Organization's consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

**Purpose of This Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*RSM US LLP*

Orlando, Florida  
December 18, 2019

**Report on Compliance for its Major State Financial Assistance Project and  
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by State of  
Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General***

**Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Board of Directors  
Step Up For Students, Inc.

**Report on Compliance for its Major State Financial Assistance Project**

We have audited Step Up For Students, Inc. and its subsidiaries' (the Organization) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the Department of Financial Services' State Projects Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on the Organization's major state financial assistance project for the year ended June 30, 2019. The Organization's major state financial assistance project is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

**Management's Responsibility**

Management is responsible for compliance with state statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its state financial assistance applicable to its state financial assistance project.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for the Organization's major state financial assistance project based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the State of Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General*. Those standards and the State of Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General*, require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major state financial assistance project occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Organization's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for its major state financial assistance project. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Organization's compliance.

**Opinion on its Major State Financial Assistance Project**

In our opinion, the Organization complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major state financial assistance project for the year ended June 30, 2019.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

Management of the Organization is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the Organization's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on its major state financial assistance project to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for its major state financial assistance project and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the State of Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General*, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control over compliance.

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state financial assistance project on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state financial assistance project will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state financial assistance project that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by *those* charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the State of Florida Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General*. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*RSM US LLP*

Orlando, Florida  
December 18, 2019

**Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiary**

**Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs  
Year Ended June 30, 2019**

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**I - Summary of Auditor's Results**

**Financial Statements**

Type of auditor's report issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified?	<u>          </u> Yes	<u>  X  </u> No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	<u>          </u> Yes	<u>  X  </u> None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	<u>          </u> Yes	<u>  X  </u> No

**State Financial Assistance**

Internal control over major program:

Material weakness(es) identified?	<u>          </u> Yes	<u>  X  </u> No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	<u>          </u> Yes	<u>  X  </u> None Reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major program: Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 10.654(1)(h)(1)(f), *Rules of the Auditor General*?            Yes   X   No

Identification of major program:

<u>CSFA Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of State Financial Assistance Project</u>
48.113	Gardiner Scholarship Program

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B state financial assistance projects:            \$   3,052,713  

**II. Financial Statement Findings**

No matters to report.

**III. Findings and Questioned Costs for State Financial Assistance**

No matters to report.

**IV. Other Reporting**

1. No Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings is presented because there were no prior audit findings related to state financial assistance projects.
2. No Corrective Action Plan is presented because there were no findings required to be reported under the Florida Single Audit Act.
3. There was no management letter or control deficiency letter issued for the year ended June 30, 2019, and there were no matters required to be reported in these letters.

**Step Up For Students**  
**Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2020**

- Student Data Information on Applications, Application Approval and Scholarship Funding
  
- Scholarship Monies Collected, Distributed Scholarships and Year End Balances

**Step Up For Students (FTC)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Alachua	117	149	149	145	145	148	119	130	87	102	75	46	38	1450
Baker	2	7	10	14	9	14	13	11	17	12	18	12	7	146
Bay	27	34	26	23	28	26	22	22	19	14	8	6	7	262
Bradford	18	19	17	22	24	19	19	24	24	15	20	15	18	254
Brevard	309	395	380	336	339	356	316	344	331	207	163	173	117	3766
Broward	1599	1644	1564	1529	1418	1388	1307	1210	1104	1052	859	740	641	16055
Calhoun	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
Charlotte	48	68	61	46	58	61	62	57	52	40	31	14	26	624
Citrus	57	89	81	83	83	86	89	83	53	49	38	40	21	852
Clay	60	64	87	63	73	71	75	62	73	52	43	41	27	791
Collier	62	70	70	63	81	70	82	57	53	64	46	45	37	800
Columbia	44	67	56	72	70	69	58	72	66	54	44	43	27	742
DeSoto	5	8	16	13	15	15	14	18	9	7	9	5	2	136
Dixie	4	13	6	8	5	10	5	5	7	9	5	8	7	92
Duval	941	1077	1123	1053	1091	1066	1162	1126	922	869	681	554	470	12135
Escambia	227	291	300	295	291	293	284	241	225	159	145	125	96	2972
Flagler	75	69	87	78	69	57	71	83	60	42	19	20	18	748
Franklin	3	5	6	3	6	3	1	5	1	2	2	3	3	43
Gadsden	29	38	39	60	50	60	74	63	53	54	44	41	31	636
Gilchrist	4	6	11	8	8	10	10	9	10	2	3	4	3	88
Glades	7	3	2	5	1	4	6	3	2	4	2	0	1	40
Gulf	2	4	8	5	5	4	7	6	2	4	1	0	0	48
Hamilton	12	13	18	16	6	15	15	14	14	12	14	2	5	156
Hardee	6	9	9	8	3	7	10	4	6	1	0	0	0	63
Hendry	34	25	32	31	20	27	41	38	29	29	20	12	6	344
Hernando	90	108	92	119	116	112	107	110	102	77	66	60	41	1200
Highlands	55	96	83	88	96	89	79	79	82	44	36	21	12	860
Hillsborough	771	889	824	889	803	887	852	726	695	584	523	412	348	9203
Holmes	0	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	18
Indian River	35	57	43	49	50	56	49	52	41	27	21	15	14	509
Jackson	13	19	31	14	12	11	17	20	13	10	14	4	0	178
Jefferson	17	10	13	9	12	12	15	9	17	8	7	9	8	146
Lafayette	5	0	4	4	6	6	9	1	3	3	0	3	1	45
Lake	201	255	230	240	240	215	249	211	235	173	149	113	118	2629
Lee	188	198	186	179	203	178	169	163	171	145	111	109	86	2086
Leon	137	135	129	124	126	120	105	102	87	84	57	54	36	1296
Levy	26	27	27	26	34	35	35	40	33	18	17	16	14	348
Liberty	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
Madison	8	4	3	5	5	3	5	8	5	1	5	2	0	54

**Step Up For Students (FTC)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Manatee	94	121	126	124	129	121	112	135	114	93	89	80	63	1401
Marion	250	297	271	315	267	286	289	243	249	194	173	119	106	3059
Martin	41	42	41	56	45	47	40	38	31	29	25	10	12	457
Miami-Dade	3732	3997	3760	3443	2977	2910	2837	2290	2080	1820	1575	1386	1180	33987
Monroe	26	25	20	20	17	15	11	18	11	2	3	2	1	171
Nassau	42	38	31	30	44	41	30	27	35	23	15	13	8	377
Okaloosa	94	83	86	92	89	67	78	62	44	25	27	12	18	777
Okeechobee	27	24	20	25	28	32	19	25	13	16	12	4	3	248
Orange	1327	1508	1543	1510	1399	1357	1395	1266	1152	909	745	631	544	15286
Osceola	346	442	433	443	484	495	474	464	455	395	351	292	286	5360
Palm Beach	547	557	521	486	476	488	517	475	439	395	295	270	224	5690
Pasco	223	232	208	219	219	218	208	215	165	165	149	115	103	2439
Pinellas	441	537	487	540	489	516	632	516	487	402	350	255	229	5881
Polk	599	617	585	601	589	585	596	531	539	429	378	317	267	6633
Putnam	46	61	53	58	53	67	57	60	42	34	20	24	13	588
Santa Rosa	67	88	84	59	65	80	58	58	60	48	43	30	28	768
Sarasota	99	108	110	109	102	112	86	96	91	69	65	50	46	1143
Seminole	225	240	253	257	243	231	232	189	184	132	128	99	64	2477
St. Johns	90	90	83	94	77	64	65	69	63	45	24	31	19	814
St. Lucie	257	286	293	285	251	225	248	214	190	155	133	102	86	2725
Sumter	17	12	13	14	15	18	2	13	13	7	12	10	2	148
Suwannee	25	48	58	57	35	48	52	54	49	46	32	39	27	570
Taylor	7	15	24	23	26	22	19	12	17	13	21	6	9	214
Union	1	6	7	2	3	5	3	7	5	2	2	2	1	46
Volusia	424	471	419	428	449	453	445	417	369	289	235	195	174	4768
Wakulla	13	9	10	10	17	11	13	10	10	11	9	4	7	134
Walton	12	17	7	13	21	9	13	12	9	10	3	2	4	132
Washington	11	24	15	17	13	12	11	17	14	5	5	4	3	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>14322</b>	<b>15963</b>	<b>15387</b>	<b>15059</b>	<b>14228</b>	<b>14143</b>	<b>14099</b>	<b>12744</b>	<b>11634</b>	<b>9793</b>	<b>8217</b>	<b>6872</b>	<b>5814</b>	<b>158275</b>

**Step Up For Students (FTC)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Approved**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Alachua	84	129	135	125	123	132	99	114	75	89	64	39	34	1242
Baker	2	7	10	13	8	14	13	11	16	12	14	12	6	138
Bay	16	30	20	18	23	24	20	17	13	12	6	5	6	210
Bradford	8	17	15	17	23	18	15	22	23	14	16	13	17	218
Brevard	214	338	325	290	298	319	279	288	290	170	143	148	97	3199
Broward	1047	1402	1348	1318	1241	1218	1093	1042	942	819	685	612	539	13306
Calhoun	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Charlotte	28	61	50	43	50	48	53	45	45	37	25	11	21	517
Citrus	37	79	70	74	70	77	78	72	45	41	29	33	14	719
Clay	38	48	73	56	64	60	63	52	62	40	35	36	21	648
Collier	37	51	54	49	66	58	60	41	37	37	32	31	24	577
Columbia	34	61	49	67	63	63	48	62	56	49	37	36	23	648
DeSoto	4	8	16	12	14	13	14	15	9	4	8	4	2	123
Dixie	3	13	5	8	5	9	4	4	6	8	3	6	6	80
Duval	689	964	1002	935	975	959	1022	988	803	746	589	486	421	10579
Escambia	157	235	256	263	256	253	243	220	201	134	131	114	87	2550
Flagler	57	56	76	61	55	47	58	72	51	36	19	16	17	621
Franklin	2	5	4	3	6	2	1	4	1	2	2	3	3	38
Gadsden	20	34	36	53	43	50	61	54	46	45	37	38	27	544
Gilchrist	4	6	11	5	7	10	7	6	8	1	1	3	3	72
Glades	3	3	2	5	1	3	5	3	1	2	2	0	1	31
Gulf	1	4	8	4	5	3	6	5	0	4	1	0	0	41
Hamilton	8	12	17	14	6	14	13	12	12	11	12	2	5	138
Hardee	3	9	7	7	3	7	9	3	6	1	0	0	0	55
Hendry	26	24	28	27	19	23	36	34	24	25	18	11	6	301
Hernando	69	92	85	105	96	104	99	99	93	64	63	54	35	1058
Highlands	45	84	76	82	82	80	71	75	77	39	31	19	12	773
Hillsborough	585	767	727	757	698	781	712	645	609	480	453	359	306	7879
Holmes	0	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	18
Indian River	25	56	39	43	44	47	40	45	33	18	16	9	11	426
Jackson	10	17	28	9	9	11	16	19	13	10	14	4	0	160
Jefferson	11	10	12	9	11	12	14	9	16	4	7	5	7	127
Lafayette	5	0	3	3	5	4	6	1	3	2	0	3	1	36
Lake	129	222	203	207	203	185	211	178	207	134	132	94	100	2205
Lee	118	159	154	147	155	143	135	134	126	100	84	81	68	1604
Leon	102	122	114	109	116	104	85	92	74	68	46	43	30	1105
Levy	18	25	25	21	28	31	31	38	31	17	14	16	13	308
Liberty	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
Madison	7	4	2	3	5	2	2	6	4	0	4	2	0	41

**Step Up For Students (FTC)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Approved**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Manatee	58	102	107	103	113	103	89	105	90	74	76	55	53	1128
Marion	176	259	239	271	232	250	248	207	222	160	150	100	93	2607
Martin	29	34	36	49	39	40	34	34	28	24	22	10	12	391
Miami-Dade	2958	3633	3463	3172	2728	2692	2537	2082	1877	1517	1343	1219	1026	30247
Monroe	13	17	13	11	10	11	6	14	9	2	2	2	1	111
Nassau	26	32	25	25	32	30	23	23	29	20	8	11	6	290
Okaloosa	70	70	76	75	79	56	63	56	35	19	21	8	18	646
Okeechobee	20	19	18	23	21	26	17	21	11	13	11	4	3	207
Orange	981	1331	1393	1341	1251	1231	1238	1118	1019	771	654	545	479	13352
Osceola	239	373	381	399	435	440	410	414	401	349	309	254	256	4660
Palm Beach	359	460	428	400	388	404	430	395	365	278	231	219	181	4538
Pasco	150	186	181	184	188	187	174	186	146	130	122	93	94	2021
Pinellas	286	460	405	461	423	446	541	455	444	335	300	229	205	4990
Polk	408	526	497	515	523	495	514	454	456	378	329	280	239	5614
Putnam	32	50	46	50	45	64	48	54	38	33	16	23	12	511
Santa Rosa	46	67	66	51	51	69	46	49	51	40	38	27	23	624
Sarasota	58	86	91	84	86	94	65	80	75	52	57	44	39	911
Seminole	166	203	218	213	212	200	189	157	158	109	106	83	54	2068
St. Johns	65	71	74	80	64	57	53	52	55	34	15	26	17	663
St. Lucie	159	249	247	237	228	198	214	187	167	132	118	87	79	2302
Sumter	15	12	13	12	12	13	0	12	11	4	8	9	2	123
Suwannee	20	40	53	54	34	40	48	47	42	38	31	34	26	507
Taylor	4	13	20	22	24	19	15	12	16	11	19	6	9	190
Union	1	6	7	1	3	5	3	7	5	2	1	2	1	44
Volusia	312	422	375	382	408	409	381	376	323	253	215	169	156	4181
Wakulla	8	9	8	8	17	9	12	9	9	7	5	3	7	111
Walton	9	13	5	9	19	9	11	10	7	8	3	1	4	108
Washington	9	20	14	15	13	12	9	15	14	4	5	4	3	137
<b>Total</b>	<b>10324</b>	<b>13920</b>	<b>13587</b>	<b>13213</b>	<b>12558</b>	<b>12542</b>	<b>12142</b>	<b>11161</b>	<b>10162</b>	<b>8073</b>	<b>6990</b>	<b>5896</b>	<b>5062</b>	<b>135630</b>

**Step Up For Students (FTC)**  
**Number of Students Who Received Scholarship Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Alachua	42	89	100	87	96	101	72	77	59	55	44	30	24	876
Baker	1	7	7	11	6	10	7	9	12	8	7	9	3	97
Bay	11	25	12	12	16	18	14	11	12	9	4	2	3	149
Bradford	3	8	10	13	17	12	13	17	16	11	15	10	15	160
Brevard	131	259	249	234	227	243	231	213	226	99	104	112	79	2407
Broward	539	1048	1013	1021	942	925	816	798	716	489	469	430	386	9592
Calhoun	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Charlotte	13	49	35	36	44	44	49	36	38	21	17	6	12	400
Citrus	22	58	58	59	56	61	66	58	36	28	21	26	13	562
Clay	19	35	61	44	49	49	54	45	46	30	28	29	15	504
Collier	14	42	37	35	54	45	45	33	29	27	20	26	17	424
Columbia	26	52	42	55	47	58	41	50	52	35	33	25	17	533
DeSoto	3	5	11	10	12	10	13	10	7	3	4	3	0	91
Dixie	1	12	3	7	4	7	3	4	6	5	2	4	4	62
Duval	388	739	796	726	758	744	760	741	629	519	430	368	289	7887
Escambia	88	197	215	210	207	198	181	173	157	81	96	87	59	1949
Flagler	38	42	61	46	46	32	51	53	46	30	10	13	14	482
Franklin	0	4	4	1	5	2	1	4	0	2	1	3	3	30
Gadsden	16	29	27	41	35	41	49	44	35	35	26	31	23	432
Gilchrist	2	6	9	3	5	8	5	6	3	0	1	3	3	54
Glades	3	4	2	5	1	4	5	3	1	2	2	0	1	33
Gulf	1	3	9	2	4	3	7	2	0	2	1	0	0	34
Hamilton	7	12	16	11	6	11	12	8	9	9	11	2	4	118
Hardee	0	7	5	5	2	6	9	1	4	0	0	0	0	39
Hendry	19	18	24	23	17	22	26	27	20	21	16	10	4	247
Hernando	49	79	68	90	79	84	78	78	65	47	45	41	30	833
Highlands	25	68	68	69	71	67	58	64	64	27	19	14	9	623
Hillsborough	290	564	547	543	497	580	513	457	469	322	318	264	247	5611
Holmes	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	9
Indian River	14	42	30	30	32	32	33	42	24	12	11	5	5	312
Jackson	5	10	17	4	8	8	13	13	8	6	12	2	0	106
Jefferson	7	8	10	6	10	10	11	4	11	3	5	1	6	92
Lafayette	5	0	2	3	4	3	6	1	2	2	0	3	1	32
Lake	58	159	149	156	165	140	155	143	168	91	92	72	74	1622
Lee	62	133	122	124	118	118	108	113	100	73	72	59	53	1255
Leon	54	79	73	80	81	74	54	61	46	43	26	26	20	717
Levy	11	23	21	21	26	26	21	27	26	12	11	14	11	250
Liberty	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Madison	5	4	1	3	5	2	2	5	3	0	4	1	0	35

**Step Up For Students (FTC)**  
**Number of Students Who Received Scholarship Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Manatee	31	82	84	82	90	81	73	84	67	48	56	41	35	854
Marion	89	198	193	208	187	187	191	167	182	119	110	72	69	1972
Martin	20	27	32	37	31	34	30	30	25	17	10	7	8	308
Miami-Dade	1951	2893	2777	2588	2247	2229	1969	1684	1480	1053	977	922	753	23523
Monroe	8	15	8	7	6	9	3	7	7	0	0	0	0	70
Nassau	13	25	21	17	23	25	18	18	22	16	7	9	6	220
Okaloosa	34	52	56	52	56	42	50	42	23	10	14	5	13	449
Okeechobee	13	13	15	18	16	22	13	14	7	7	4	3	2	147
Orange	528	987	1084	1031	973	944	943	836	756	518	434	376	300	9710
Osceola	151	300	308	307	358	355	330	337	326	258	235	190	183	3638
Palm Beach	171	341	300	298	282	290	306	305	278	166	163	148	119	3167
Pasco	91	123	134	147	145	167	129	147	111	91	83	63	72	1503
Pinellas	143	339	313	362	314	327	411	366	360	218	211	164	154	3682
Polk	210	403	373	388	381	382	385	329	332	255	201	190	150	3979
Putnam	17	38	38	44	33	46	43	37	31	27	12	17	8	391
Santa Rosa	31	54	43	47	39	58	32	36	45	27	29	23	17	481
Sarasota	33	68	74	65	65	72	52	64	58	33	39	29	30	682
Seminole	69	139	152	148	159	147	141	124	113	62	57	59	37	1407
St. Johns	53	58	61	66	52	54	40	41	45	23	12	19	13	537
St. Lucie	84	197	210	192	183	168	187	170	151	114	82	76	65	1879
Sumter	8	10	10	6	9	13	0	9	10	3	6	6	0	90
Suwannee	12	30	45	48	32	37	41	39	34	29	26	29	18	420
Taylor	1	12	19	18	22	15	13	11	16	8	16	4	8	163
Union	0	5	6	1	3	5	3	7	4	2	1	1	1	39
Volusia	173	326	302	283	326	331	305	288	254	177	156	121	111	3153
Wakulla	3	5	6	7	10	6	9	4	9	6	4	2	4	75
Walton	2	11	2	6	10	8	4	6	4	3	2	1	4	63
Washington	8	17	12	15	12	10	6	11	11	2	4	3	2	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>5919</b>	<b>10688</b>	<b>10595</b>	<b>10316</b>	<b>9818</b>	<b>9867</b>	<b>9309</b>	<b>8645</b>	<b>7907</b>	<b>5451</b>	<b>4929</b>	<b>4312</b>	<b>3626</b>	<b>101382</b>

**Step Up For Students (Gardiner)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	P3	P4	PK	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Alachua	20	19	0	33	32	31	25	34	30	28	23	15	19	15	15	12	351
Baker	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	17
Bay	6	12	0	6	8	11	7	10	6	7	7	10	6	2	2	3	103
Bradford	3	1	0	4	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	21
Brevard	48	57	0	116	114	75	81	85	76	95	98	73	61	58	33	51	1121
Broward	108	137	1	203	133	106	112	118	115	118	112	113	115	92	106	70	1759
Calhoun	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Charlotte	4	1	0	10	5	6	5	10	4	5	7	7	2	7	4	7	84
Citrus	5	3	0	10	7	12	6	10	9	12	6	5	17	5	6	9	122
Clay	7	12	0	23	23	18	19	27	19	17	19	18	18	15	8	9	252
Collier	13	18	0	23	16	16	15	25	10	19	21	10	13	11	8	15	233
Columbia	1	1	0	4	6	7	7	7	6	11	8	18	3	12	10	17	118
DeSoto	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	4	4	1	3	0	2	1	22
Dixie	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	9
Duval	59	66	0	98	82	61	67	79	76	105	84	82	77	60	58	65	1119
Escambia	7	15	1	26	23	20	24	22	16	26	25	31	24	15	13	10	298
Flagler	2	3	0	3	10	14	12	12	7	13	16	8	14	8	5	4	131
Gadsden	2	6	0	7	3	6	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	2	0	1	52
Gilchrist	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	3	2	3	5	1	2	0	0	2	25
Glades	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Gulf	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Hamilton	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	16
Hardee	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	11
Hendry	0	2	0	2	1	3	2	1	2	0	5	1	0	0	3	3	25
Hernando	22	25	0	45	45	32	37	37	39	33	36	37	16	21	20	21	466
Highlands	4	7	0	8	6	9	4	6	5	8	4	6	3	2	2	2	76
Hillsborough	67	120	0	166	123	106	115	109	120	116	89	88	92	83	49	58	1501
Holmes	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Indian River	3	11	0	10	15	10	11	9	11	13	11	17	8	5	3	6	143
Jackson	3	0	0	4	4	1	3	3	0	2	1	3	1	0	2	0	27
Jefferson	4	0	0	3	1	1	1	4	3	0	1	4	0	1	2	1	26
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Lake	28	42	0	89	56	55	37	47	49	42	51	48	45	29	23	36	677
Lee	12	25	0	50	31	33	30	36	27	47	28	23	22	21	13	24	422
Leon	48	44	0	65	39	29	23	37	32	38	28	21	28	26	12	16	486
Levy	0	1	0	4	0	3	2	3	1	6	3	2	3	1	1	1	31
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Madison	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Manatee	12	23	0	35	26	24	24	22	32	23	26	33	24	21	27	21	373
Marion	23	28	0	48	33	22	40	31	26	26	23	22	24	27	13	20	406

**Step Up For Students (Gardiner)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	P3	P4	PK	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Martin	7	18	0	11	15	10	18	9	10	21	15	11	9	9	10	7	180
Miami-Dade	365	417	0	496	312	228	215	195	179	169	164	123	136	114	138	152	3403
Monroe	1	10	0	6	3	2	4	3	1	3	2	7	2	1	3	1	49
Nassau	6	6	0	4	4	4	9	5	5	10	10	4	4	8	5	5	89
Okaloosa	15	12	0	27	28	35	25	26	26	19	15	17	19	16	7	6	293
Okeechobee	2	2	0	6	6	3	2	0	2	5	3	1	1	1	0	2	36
Orange	89	148	0	241	171	142	162	141	140	174	124	119	127	106	72	76	2032
Osceola	39	55	0	72	58	51	60	46	53	67	47	47	55	31	29	28	738
Palm Beach	79	124	0	145	104	84	84	80	83	96	83	98	69	69	54	50	1302
Pasco	39	46	0	80	59	56	56	62	51	62	65	61	66	60	40	55	858
Pinellas	48	43	0	82	69	58	65	61	61	86	68	87	75	57	60	55	975
Polk	39	47	0	104	78	70	78	82	78	87	89	86	78	80	47	53	1096
Putnam	0	2	0	4	3	2	3	5	3	7	2	3	6	2	3	1	46
Santa Rosa	6	6	0	15	15	15	12	13	17	20	13	11	8	6	9	6	172
Sarasota	21	8	0	26	20	16	11	21	21	20	14	29	20	26	16	16	285
Seminole	26	66	0	94	59	54	59	63	73	77	67	66	52	43	37	50	886
St. Johns	12	13	0	34	25	30	18	14	10	11	14	23	13	14	28	15	274
St. Lucie	33	38	0	50	37	36	39	44	30	34	25	23	16	20	12	21	458
Sumter	1	2	0	7	3	3	6	5	1	6	0	2	3	2	0	0	41
Suwannee	3	2	0	3	6	7	6	5	5	4	4	4	7	6	5	2	69
Taylor	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	15
Union	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	9
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Volusia	19	28	0	73	78	53	52	59	65	80	69	58	59	40	34	30	797
Wakulla	3	1	0	2	0	3	2	1	2	3	1	0	5	2	7	3	35
Walton	6	18	0	14	9	8	9	5	9	8	4	4	4	4	4	0	106
Washington	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1802</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2711</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>1694</b>	<b>1718</b>	<b>1747</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>1897</b>	<b>1654</b>	<b>1599</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1263</b>	<b>1067</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>24820</b>

**Step Up For Students (Gardiner)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Approved**  
**2019-2020**

County	P3	P4	PK	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Alachua	16	17	0	23	21	23	20	27	25	21	18	12	16	10	14	10	273
Baker	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	9
Bay	4	10	0	2	4	7	6	7	3	3	6	9	4	2	2	2	71
Bradford	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	14
Brevard	41	45	0	86	85	52	58	63	51	80	78	58	47	47	28	42	861
Broward	82	106	0	124	68	65	64	70	70	79	69	85	75	60	78	39	1134
Calhoun	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Charlotte	4	1	0	7	2	5	2	6	3	4	5	4	1	4	3	3	54
Citrus	3	3	0	6	5	6	5	8	7	6	4	4	12	3	5	6	83
Clay	5	8	0	16	16	12	10	20	9	12	11	15	16	15	7	7	179
Collier	12	15	0	14	13	12	11	17	7	8	18	7	10	8	6	13	171
Columbia	1	1	0	1	5	5	7	5	5	8	8	15	3	12	7	12	95
DeSoto	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	14
Dixie	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	7
Duval	43	37	0	67	52	41	33	52	43	64	63	59	57	44	43	47	745
Escambia	3	6	0	8	10	11	14	19	13	20	20	22	18	11	13	6	194
Flagler	1	3	0	2	6	13	9	9	4	9	12	5	11	8	5	2	99
Gadsden	0	3	0	4	2	5	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	29
Gilchrist	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	4	0	2	0	0	2	18
Glades	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Gulf	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Hamilton	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hardee	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Hendry	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	17
Hernando	12	21	0	28	33	24	28	29	29	21	25	30	11	17	18	18	344
Highlands	1	2	0	6	3	5	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	34
Hillsborough	45	94	0	110	80	70	70	62	69	79	67	57	64	60	36	43	1006
Holmes	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Indian River	2	7	0	9	12	7	11	6	7	10	9	11	4	3	1	3	102
Jackson	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	13
Jefferson	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	3	0	1	4	0	1	2	1	19
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Lake	21	33	0	64	44	46	26	35	34	29	44	34	37	23	19	26	515
Lee	8	10	0	27	19	22	20	26	13	33	23	16	18	18	13	20	286
Leon	38	35	0	44	25	22	17	25	20	30	24	18	23	19	12	13	365
Levy	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	19
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Manatee	8	16	0	21	19	16	18	14	24	15	19	26	17	17	25	17	272
Marion	15	17	0	25	19	13	28	20	19	14	16	19	19	16	10	15	265

**Step Up For Students (Gardiner)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Approved**  
**2019-2020**

County	P3	P4	PK	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Martin	5	13	0	9	13	6	14	7	8	18	14	10	9	9	6	7	148
Miami-Dade	300	336	0	352	203	171	148	132	119	108	112	81	92	65	87	83	2389
Monroe	0	6	0	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	6	2	1	2	1	31
Nassau	4	4	0	1	2	4	6	3	4	8	7	3	2	5	3	3	59
Okaloosa	9	7	0	13	22	26	17	18	17	12	10	13	11	11	6	3	195
Okeechobee	1	2	0	2	5	3	2	0	1	4	2	1	1	1	0	2	27
Orange	67	107	0	152	103	87	113	90	100	113	81	84	90	83	56	44	1370
Osceola	26	31	0	52	39	37	38	29	38	42	33	32	37	22	21	18	495
Palm Beach	65	100	0	100	69	52	62	54	57	66	58	76	50	55	49	33	946
Pasco	25	28	0	47	36	36	38	38	36	41	47	46	49	39	34	41	581
Pinellas	38	28	0	51	40	42	39	45	46	56	50	67	58	45	50	42	697
Polk	16	30	0	65	47	49	59	62	50	62	61	61	62	67	39	43	773
Putnam	0	2	0	3	1	1	3	3	1	4	1	2	3	0	3	1	28
Santa Rosa	5	6	0	9	10	11	8	8	12	15	8	10	7	5	7	3	124
Sarasota	18	6	0	23	10	10	7	15	15	17	10	22	17	23	13	12	218
Seminole	21	47	0	67	39	36	43	46	62	53	54	53	43	37	31	30	662
St. Johns	8	12	0	20	19	22	13	13	8	9	10	19	10	12	23	11	209
St. Lucie	29	29	0	35	28	23	30	30	22	26	19	15	14	19	8	15	342
Sumter	1	1	0	1	3	2	5	3	0	4	0	2	3	2	0	0	27
Suwannee	2	0	0	2	3	4	5	4	5	2	2	4	6	4	3	2	48
Taylor	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	11
Union	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	6
Volusia	12	20	0	50	41	36	33	39	43	58	50	49	49	34	32	27	573
Wakulla	2	1	0	2	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	4	2	4	2	27
Walton	4	16	0	12	6	7	7	1	5	5	2	2	2	4	4	0	77
Washington	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>1188</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>17419</b>

**Step Up for Students (Gardiner)**  
**Number of Students Who Received Scholarship Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	P3	P4	PK	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total
Alachua	11	11	0	20	16	20	15	25	21	20	14	11	13	7	12	10	226
Baker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	7
Bay	2	6	0	3	3	5	4	7	4	3	5	7	3	2	2	2	58
Bradford	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	9
Brevard	23	32	0	64	64	38	44	49	43	64	60	44	47	42	26	38	678
Broward	32	61	0	77	48	43	52	50	52	59	53	65	60	50	71	33	806
Calhoun	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Charlotte	4	1	0	6	1	2	3	4	4	2	2	3	1	2	3	3	41
Citrus	1	3	0	2	5	6	5	7	6	3	4	5	9	3	3	6	68
Clay	3	4	0	7	12	7	8	17	8	9	9	13	14	14	7	6	138
Collier	7	10	0	10	9	10	8	13	5	4	15	4	7	5	6	11	124
Columbia	1	1	0	0	3	5	5	4	4	7	7	14	2	11	6	12	82
DeSoto	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	10
Dixie	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	6
Duval	23	24	0	46	35	33	24	39	36	53	49	47	45	38	41	41	574
Escambia	1	1	0	3	6	10	9	14	11	16	14	18	17	10	13	6	149
Flagler	1	2	0	1	6	9	6	8	3	5	10	1	9	7	4	1	73
Gadsden	0	2	0	3	2	5	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	24
Gilchrist	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	16
Glades	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Gulf	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Hamilton	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Hardee	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Hendry	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	13
Hernando	9	16	0	17	28	19	26	26	29	18	18	27	11	18	15	17	294
Highlands	0	0	0	6	3	5	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	27
Hillsborough	21	59	0	59	55	50	58	46	46	56	52	46	50	49	32	38	717
Holmes	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Indian River	1	3	0	7	8	5	9	6	6	10	6	9	3	3	1	3	80
Jackson	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	7
Jefferson	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	1	4	0	0	2	1	16
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Lake	10	24	0	43	36	37	24	28	32	25	38	32	36	22	15	22	424
Lee	5	8	0	20	14	16	18	21	10	26	19	16	14	17	12	18	234
Leon	20	31	0	28	23	20	14	21	15	26	23	15	20	18	11	10	295
Levy	0	1	0	3	0	2	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	16
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Madison	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Manatee	4	11	0	17	17	10	13	12	21	12	14	24	11	14	24	15	219
Marion	7	10	0	19	14	11	22	19	15	13	15	16	13	14	8	14	210
Martin	3	8	0	6	11	6	12	5	7	14	11	7	8	6	5	7	116
Miami-Dade	156	242	0	246	153	143	122	102	90	94	97	66	69	59	78	74	1791

**Step Up for Students (Gardiner)**  
**Number of Students Who Received Scholarship Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	P3	P4	PK	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Total	
Monroe	0	3	0	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	23
Nassau	1	3	0	1	1	2	5	1	4	6	6	3	1	4	3	3	3	44
Okaloosa	4	6	0	12	19	24	13	14	14	6	7	11	10	10	6	2	158	
Okeechobee	1	1	0	2	4	3	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	2	22	
Orange	30	74	0	94	80	70	97	73	76	84	64	74	76	75	45	41	1053	
Osceola	20	21	0	32	28	27	31	22	35	37	26	31	30	20	17	14	391	
Palm Beach	32	67	0	63	52	37	41	44	46	47	44	63	42	47	40	30	695	
Pasco	4	19	0	28	25	32	28	30	23	35	38	38	46	36	29	39	450	
Pinellas	25	21	0	39	32	36	24	32	38	44	35	59	48	41	41	39	554	
Polk	9	23	0	45	34	40	48	53	41	48	49	51	53	53	33	39	619	
Putnam	0	2	0	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	0	1	3	0	3	1	23	
Santa Rosa	2	6	0	3	9	9	6	9	10	12	7	9	6	5	7	3	103	
Sarasota	5	6	0	18	6	7	6	13	10	15	8	20	16	21	10	9	170	
Seminole	9	30	0	42	28	31	34	45	46	39	48	49	40	31	30	29	531	
St. Johns	3	9	0	16	16	16	10	10	7	8	6	18	9	10	18	10	166	
St. Lucie	12	23	0	22	24	16	25	21	19	19	15	12	12	15	6	14	255	
Sumter	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	2	0	2	3	1	0	0	19	
Suwannee	2	1	0	1	2	4	3	4	4	2	1	4	7	4	3	2	44	
Taylor	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	10	
Union	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Volusia	6	11	0	36	33	27	27	29	35	48	39	45	39	31	27	24	457	
Wakulla	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	2	3	2	19	
Walton	1	13	0	10	6	6	7	1	4	4	2	1	2	3	4	0	64	
Washington	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>13463</b>	

**Step Up For Students (Reading)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Alachua					8	60	40							108
Baker						7	7							14
Bay					1	16	8							25
Brevard					28	152	139							319
Broward					59	353	276							688
Charlotte					3	13	10							26
Citrus					1	8	2							11
Clay					8	109	91							208
Collier					6	24	11							41
Columbia					7	48	35							90
Dade					74	302	221							597
DeSoto					1	5	5							11
Dixie						1								1
Duval					12	183	124							319
Escambia					4	29	36							69
Flagler						9	14							23
Gadsden						3	2							5
Gilchrist					1	2	1							4
Glades						1								1
Gulf						1	1							2
Hamilton					1	1	1							3
Hendry					1	3	1							5
Hernando					5	16	13							34
Highlands					2	23	19							44
Hillsborough					49	277	240							566
Holmes							3							3
Indian River					10	16	13							39
Jackson							1							1
Jefferson						1	1							2
Lafayette							1							1
Lake					1	35	29							65
Lee					18	105	93							216
Leon					5	62	72							139
Levy						1	1							2
Liberty						2								2
Manatee					10	56	50							116
Marion					49	209	148							406
Martin					11	29	28							68
Monroe					1	1	3							5
Nassau					2	44	60							106
Okaloosa					5	40	44							89
Okeechobee					1	3	10							14

**Step Up For Students (Reading)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Orange				108	487	479								1074
Osceola				11	137	109								257
Palm Beach				28	137	91								256
Pasco				27	81	72								180
Pinellas				14	77	81								172
Polk				32	76	91								199
Putnam				2	14	7								23
Santa Rosa				2	10	9								21
Sarasota				9	40	37								86
Seminole				11	40	47								98
St. Johns				4	58	41								103
St. Lucie					32	22								54
Sumter				1		2								3
Suwannee				3	10	13								26
Taylor							1							1
Union				1		1								2
Volusia				3	27	22								52
Wakulla						3								3
Walton				1	9	4								14
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>641</b>	<b>3485</b>	<b>2986</b>								<b>7112</b>

**Step Up For Students (Reading)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Approved**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Alachua				8	58	40								106
Baker					7	7								14
Bay				1	15	7								23
Brevard				26	139	123								288
Broward				53	341	261								655
Charlotte				3	13	10								26
Citrus				1	8	2								11
Clay				8	108	90								206
Collier				6	23	10								39
Columbia				7	48	35								90
Dade				66	290	208								564
DeSoto				1	5	4								10
Dixie					1									1
Duval				12	172	118								302
Escambia				4	29	35								68
Flagler					9	14								23
Gadsden					3	2								5
Gilchrist				1	2	1								4
Glades					1									1
Gulf					1	1								2
Hamilton					1	1								2
Hendry				1	3	1								5
Hernando				5	16	13								34
Highlands				2	23	19								44
Hillsborough				44	264	221								529
Holmes						3								3
Indian River				10	16	11								37
Jackson						1								1
Jefferson					1									1
Lafayette						1								1
Lake				1	35	24								60
Lee				17	105	91								213
Leon				5	59	65								129
Levy					1	1								2
Liberty					2									2
Manatee				9	56	50								115
Marion				49	207	147								403
Martin				10	29	28								67
Monroe				1	1	3								5
Nassau				2	42	60								104
Okaloosa				5	40	43								88
Okeechobee				1	3	10								14

**Step Up For Students (Reading)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Approved**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Orange				103	455	422								980
Osceola				9	131	103								243
Palm Beach				25	135	83								243
Pasco				27	81	65								173
Pinellas				14	74	77								165
Polk				30	71	89								190
Putnam				2	14	7								23
Santa Rosa				2	9	8								19
Sarasota				9	39	37								85
Seminole				8	40	43								91
St. Johns				4	57	41								102
St. Lucie					32	21								53
Sumter				1		2								3
Suwannee				3	10	13								26
Taylor							1							1
Union				1		1								2
Volusia				3	27	20								50
Wakulla						3								3
Walton					9	4								13
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>600</b>	<b>3361</b>	<b>2801</b>								<b>6762</b>

**Step Up For Students (Reading)**  
**Number of Students who Received Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Alachua					8	58	40							106
Baker						7	7							14
Bay				1	15	7								23
Brevard				26	139	123								288
Broward				53	341	260								654
Charlotte				3	13	10								26
Citrus				1	8	2								11
Clay				8	108	90								206
Collier				6	23	10								39
Columbia				7	48	35								90
Dade				66	290	208								564
DeSoto				1	5	4								10
Dixie						1								1
Duval				12	172	118								302
Escambia				4	29	35								68
Flagler						9	14							23
Gadsden						3	2							5
Gilchrist				1	2	1								4
Glades						1								1
Gulf						1	1							2
Hamilton						1	1							2
Hendry				1	3	1								5
Hernando				5	16	13								34
Highlands				2	23	19								44
Hillsborough				44	264	221								529
Holmes							3							3
Indian River				10	16	11								37
Jackson							1							1
Jefferson						1								1
Lafayette							1							1
Lake				1	35	24								60
Lee				17	105	91								213
Leon				5	59	65								129
Levy						1	1							2
Liberty						2								2
Manatee				9	56	50								115
Marion				49	207	147								403
Martin				10	29	28								67
Monroe				1	1	3								5

**Step Up For Students (Reading)**  
**Number of Students who Received Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Nassau					2	42	60							104
Okaloosa					5	40	43							88
Okeechobee					1	3	10							14
Orange					103	455	421							979
Osceola					9	131	103							243
Palm Beach					25	135	83							243
Pasco					27	81	65							173
Pinellas					14	74	77							165
Polk					30	71	89							190
Putnam					2	14	7							23
Santa Rosa					2	9	8							19
Sarasota					9	39	37							85
Seminole					8	40	43							91
St. Johns					4	57	41							102
St. Lucie						32	21							53
Sumter					1		2							3
Suwannee					3	10	13							26
Taylor							1							1
Union					1		1							2
Volusia					3	27	20							50
Wakulla							3							3
Walton						9	4							13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>3361</b>	<b>2799</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6760</b>

**Step Up For Students (Hope)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Alachua						2		4	3	1	1	1	1	13
Baker											1	1		2
Bay									1		1			2
Brevard		1		1	1	3	4	5	5	6	3	3		32
Broward		2	2	3	2	3	4	9	5	7	5	6	3	51
Charlotte							1	2	1		2	2		9
Citrus				2			2	1	1			1		7
Clay					1				2	2		1		6
Collier									2					2
Columbia									1					1
Dade		1		2		1	3	4	2	4	2		3	22
Duval		2	1	3	3		4	4	5	6	4	2		34
Escambia			3			1	2	2	7	2		1	2	21
Flagler			1	2	1	2	1	1	4	1	4		1	18
Gadsden							1							1
Gilchrist		1									1			2
Hamilton										1				1
Hernando		1			1	2	2	1	1					8
Highlands				1				2						3
Hillsborough		2	3	8	4	3	7	14	10	8	5	5	3	73
Indian River					1									1
Jefferson										1				1
Lake			3	1	5	3	3	2	6	3	4		2	32
Lee		1		2			2	1	2	1		1	1	11
Leon		1	1	4	4	1	1		1		2			15
Levy									1					1
Manatee			2	1		2	1	2	2	2				12
Marion		2	3	2	3	6	6	10	7	4	1	1	1	46
Martin								1			1	1		3
Monroe									1	1				2
Nassau													1	1
Okaloosa			2			1		1		3				7
Okeechobee			1											1
Orange		2	5	1	3	4	8	11	16	21	6	9	9	99
Osceola		1		3	1		1	2	2	1	1		3	15
Palm Beach				2	5	3	4	1	2	6	4	7	6	40
Pasco			1	5	3	2	2	9	11	4	6	1	2	47
Pinellas		2	4	5	3	6	5	7	15	6	3	1		57
Polk			3	2	4	5		6	7	8	2	3		40
Putnam						1							1	2
Santa Rosa		1	1	2		1		3	2	6	1	1	2	20
Sarasota					1		1		4					6

**Step Up For Students (Hope)**  
**Number of Students Who Completed Applications**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total	
Seminole		3	3		1	1	3	13	14	5	2	1	1	1	48
St. Johns				1	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	1		15	
St. Lucie			1	1		2		3		2	1			10	
Sumter							1		1		1			3	
Suwannee					3		3	3	2	2	1		2	16	
Volusia		3	5	2	1	2	6	10	10	3	5		2	4	53
Wakulla								1	2		1	1		5	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>917</b>

**Step Up For Students (Hope)**  
**Number of Students Who Were Awarded**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Alachua						1		2	1	1	1	1	1	8
Baker											1	1		2
Bay									1					1
Brevard					1	2	1	3	3	3		2		15
Broward	1		2	1	1	1	2	6	3	4		4	1	25
Charlotte								1						1
Clay						1				1		1		3
Dade	1		1				1	2	1	2			2	10
Duval	2	1	1	2			1	3	2	2	3	2		19
Escambia						1	1	2	2	2		1	1	10
Flagler			1				1	1	2		4		1	10
Gilchrist	1													1
Hamilton										1				1
Hernando	1						1							2
Hillsborough	1	1	5			1	3	10	7	6	4	1	2	42
Indian River					1									1
Lake				4	2	1	1	3			1		1	13
Lee	1		1				1						1	4
Leon			4	1	1	1			1		1			8
Manatee		1				1	1	1						4
Marion	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	5	5	3	1		1	28
Martin											1	1		2
Monroe									1					1
Okaloosa			2			1				3				6
Okeechobee			1											1
Orange	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	8	8	15	4	3	6	55
Osceola			1					1					1	3
Palm Beach			2	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	20
Pasco			1	2	1	1	1	6	6	2	4		1	25
Pinellas	1		1			4	2		6	3	1			18
Polk			2	2	2	2		4	2	2		1		17
Putnam													1	1
Santa Rosa								3	1	4			2	10
Sarasota							1		1					2
Seminole	1	1		1	1	1	2	7	10	3	1		1	28
St. Johns			1				1	2	1	1	1			7
St. Lucie			1			1		1						3
Sumter							1		1					2
Suwannee							2	1						3
Volusia	3	2	1	1	1	1	5	5	6	1	2	1	2	30
Wakulla											1	1		2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>444</b>

**Step Up For Students (Hope)**  
**Number of Students Who Received Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Alachua						1		2	2					5
Bay											1			1
Brevard				1		1	3	2	2	3	3	1		16
Broward		1	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	5	2	2	25
Charlotte							1	1	1		2	2		8
Citrus				2			2	1	1			1		7
Clay									1	1				2
Collier									2					2
Columbia									1					1
Dade				1		1	2	2	1	2	2		1	12
Duval				2	1		3	1	3	3	1			14
Escambia			3				1		5				1	11
Flagler			1	1	1	2			2	1				8
Gadsden							1							1
Gilchrist											1			1
Hernando					1	2	1	1	1					6
Highlands				1				2						3
Hillsborough		1	2	3	4	2	2	4	3	2	1	3	1	28
Jefferson										1				1
Lake			3	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2		1	18
Lee				1			1		2	1		1		6
Leon		1	1		3		1							6
Levy									1					1
Manatee			1	1		1			2	2				7
Marion				1	2	3	2	5	2	1		1		17
Martin								1						1
Nassau													1	1
Okaloosa								1						1
Orange		1	3		1	3	4	3	7	4	2	6	3	40
Osceola		1		2	1			1	2	1	1		2	11
Palm Beach					1	2	2		1	5	3	1	3	18
Pasco			1	3	1	1		3	5	2	2		1	19
Pinellas		1	3	4	3	2	3	7	9	3	2			37
Polk			1		2	3		2	5	6	2	1		22
Putnam						1								1
Santa Rosa		1		2		1			1	2	1	1		9
Sarasota					1				2					3
Seminole		2	2				1	6	2	1	1	1		16
St. Johns					1	2		1	1	1		1		7
St. Lucie			1			1		2		2	1			7
Sumter											1			1
Suwannee					2			2	2	2	1		2	11

**Step Up For Students (Hope)**  
**Number of Students Who Received Funding**  
**2019-2020**

County	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Grand Total
Volusia			3	1		1	1	5	4	2	3	1	2	23
Wakulla								1	2					3
<b>Grand Total</b>		9	27	28	27	33	35	60	80	53	38	23	19	438

Step Up For Students  
SCHOLARSHIP CASH FLOW

	Fiscal 2020												Fiscal 2020
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Opening Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$54,740,618	\$68,893,994	\$134,208,902	\$16,500,726	\$73,894,780	\$149,567,853	\$94,449,873	\$159,277,579	\$39,757,798	\$87,301,745	\$157,000,824	\$21,529,117	\$54,740,618
Gross Donations	\$51,350,747	\$67,734,389	\$52,624,910	\$59,316,965	\$78,503,058	\$114,238,661	\$68,699,123	\$48,303,837	\$50,056,083	\$73,468,653	\$27,520,166	\$34,836,119	\$726,652,711
Hope Transfer	\$0	\$0	(\$0)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$0)
Florida admin allowance	(\$2,088,828)	(\$3,015,257)	(\$1,809,768)	(\$2,431,624)	(\$3,197,970)	(\$4,686,287)	(\$3,710,192)	(\$2,609,632)	(\$2,702,416)	(\$3,967,753)	(\$1,486,167)	(\$3,453,132)	(\$35,159,026)
Net Donations	\$49,261,919	\$64,719,132	\$50,815,142	\$56,885,341	\$75,305,088	\$109,552,374	\$64,988,931	\$45,694,205	\$47,353,667	\$69,500,900	\$26,033,999	\$31,382,987	\$691,493,685
Scholarship Payments	(\$276,284)	(\$51,050)	(\$168,811,271)	\$272,388	\$58,902	(\$164,918,892)	(\$329,978)	(\$165,406,546)	\$130,291	\$126,794	(\$161,777,357)	(\$627,673)	(\$661,610,676)
Payments Received from Schools	\$167,741	\$646,826	\$287,954	\$236,325	\$309,083	\$248,537	\$168,753	\$192,560	\$59,989	\$71,385	\$271,652	\$170,374	\$2,831,179
Line of Credit	(\$35,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,000,000	(\$9,000,000)	(\$35,000,000)
Balance at end of month <sup>1</sup>	\$68,893,994	\$134,208,902	\$16,500,726	\$73,894,780	\$149,567,853	\$94,449,873	\$159,277,579	\$39,757,798	\$87,301,745	\$157,000,824	\$21,529,117	\$52,454,806	\$52,454,806

**Additional Information:**

<sup>1</sup> SUFS maintains a \$60 million line of credit to cover any shortfalls.

**Step Up For Students**  
**Detailed Accounting of Administrative Funds**

**A detailed accounting of how the organization spent its administrative funds is contained on page 5 of the statutorily required audit financial statements. A copy of this audited schedule follows. This detailed accounting also includes the expenditure from scholarship application and service fees.**

Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 2019

(With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)

	2019										
	Program Services										
	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Alabama Tax Credit Scholarship Program	Gardiner Scholarship Program	School Development and Student Learning	Communications, Policy and Public Affairs	Hope Scholarship Program	Scholarship Service Contract	Advocacy and Civic Engagement	Reading Scholarship Program	Family Empowerment Scholarship	Total Program Services
Scholarships and grants	\$ 615,252,820	\$ 8,781,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 290,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 624,325,720
Salaries and wages	5,475,165	224,085	3,537,075	921,703	895,571	850,646	494,778	257,410	524,890	89,553	13,270,876
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	1,617,979	37,469	451,716	300,930	272,298	43,842	104,335	77,665	34,912	14,688	2,955,834
Contract services	376,932	160,866	159,122	136,680	237,248	20,903	235,711	93,677	84,043	-	1,505,182
Other costs	842,721	27,915	86,285	108,298	87,426	22,887	20,913	143,101	23,938	198	1,363,682
Recruiting and advertising	475,133	12,011	225,012	-	10,716	73,668	6,656	8,240	52,763	26	864,225
Rent	266,321	25,064	157,461	57,623	50,230	33,895	33,895	27,116	33,895	-	685,500
Travel, lodging and meals	85,425	55,376	16,254	112,856	46,435	7,782	12,961	252,264	2,863	2,414	594,630
Depreciation	224,219	1,006	180,241	48,513	39,952	28,537	28,537	23,459	28,537	-	603,001
Professional fees	15,898	-	1,382	389	20,331	229	14,644	183	229	-	53,285
Write-off of school receivables	578,562	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	603,562
Repairs and maintenance	140,505	472	102,047	29,135	23,994	17,138	17,138	13,711	17,138	-	361,278
Printing and postage	154,155	12,913	11,019	19,509	2,708	9,711	14,314	8,707	4,356	-	237,392
Telephone	102,469	10,937	43,433	26,985	20,050	4,786	4,829	12,045	4,855	601	230,990
Bank charges and fees	244,662	-	(45,574)	-	-	10,191	-	-	3,121	-	212,400
Insurance	85,327	1,629	64,588	18,462	15,204	10,860	10,860	9,706	10,860	-	227,496
Office expenses	40,241	4,310	3,396	4,463	10,135	1,640	741	7,212	1,326	-	73,464
Temporary labor	3,234	-	-	-	-	-	9,716	-	-	-	12,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 625,981,768</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,985</b>	<b>\$ 4,993,457</b>	<b>\$ 1,785,546</b>	<b>\$ 1,732,298</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,683</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,028</b>	<b>\$ 934,496</b>	<b>\$ 827,726</b>	<b>\$ 107,480</b>	<b>\$ 648,181,467</b>

(Continued)

Step Up For Students, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses (Continued)  
 Year Ended June 30, 2019  
 (With Summarized Comparative Information for June 30, 2018)

	2019				
	Supporting Services				
	General and Administrative	Development and Fundraising	Total Supporting Services	Total Expenses	Total 2018 Expenses
Scholarships and grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 624,325,720	\$ 650,979,063
Salaries and wages	1,462,006	1,378,519	2,840,525	16,111,401	12,743,602
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	574,775	336,602	911,377	3,867,211	3,225,823
Contract services	829,035	86,613	915,648	2,420,830	1,847,534
Other costs	330,505	212,287	542,792	1,906,474	950,590
Recruiting and advertising	72,551	43,527	116,078	980,303	661,958
Rent	123,441	67,131	190,572	876,072	809,539
Travel, lodging and meals	126,364	147,256	273,620	868,250	616,355
Depreciation	100,760	54,849	155,609	758,610	384,633
Professional fees	499,164	125,436	624,600	677,885	507,403
Write-off of school receivables	-	-	-	603,562	126,721
Repairs and maintenance	72,916	32,563	105,479	466,757	408,807
Printing and postage	34,834	83,513	118,347	355,739	308,886
Telephone	31,703	36,768	68,471	299,461	384,792
Bank charges and fees	85,772	-	85,772	298,172	431,288
Insurance	39,435	21,652	61,087	288,583	274,012
Office expenses	16,374	40,195	56,569	130,033	143,806
Temporary labor	-	-	-	12,950	167,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,399,635</b>	<b>\$ 2,666,911</b>	<b>\$ 7,066,546</b>	<b>\$ 655,248,013</b>	<b>\$ 674,972,222</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

# Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **File a separate application for each return.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form8868](http://www.irs.gov/Form8868) for the latest information.**

**Electronic filing (e-file).** You can electronically file Form 8868 to request a 6-month automatic extension of time to file any of the forms listed below with the exception of Form 8870, Information Return for Transfers Associated With Certain Personal Benefit Contracts, for which an extension request must be sent to the IRS in paper format (see instructions). For more details on the electronic filing of this form, visit [www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/e-file-for-charities-and-non-profits](http://www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/e-file-for-charities-and-non-profits).

**Automatic 6-Month Extension of Time.** Only submit original (no copies needed).

All corporations required to file an income tax return other than Form 990-T (including 1120-C filers), partnerships, REMICs, and trusts must use Form 7004 to request an extension of time to file income tax returns.

<b>Type or print</b>	Name of exempt organization or other filer, see instructions.  STEP UP FOR STUDENTS, INC.	Taxpayer identification number (TIN)  59-3649371
File by the due date for filing your return. See instructions.	Number, street, and room or suite no. If a P.O. box, see instructions. 4655 SALISBURY ROAD, NO. 400	
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. For a foreign address, see instructions. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256	

Enter the Return Code for the return that this application is for (file a separate application for each return) 0 1

Application Is For	Return Code	Application Is For	Return Code
Form 990 or Form 990-EZ	01	Form 990-T (corporation)	07
Form 990-BL	02	Form 1041-A	08
Form 4720 (individual)	03	Form 4720 (other than individual)	09
Form 990-PF	04	Form 5227	10
Form 990-T (sec. 401(a) or 408(a) trust)	05	Form 6069	11
Form 990-T (trust other than above)	06	Form 8870	12

JOE PFOUNTZ

- The books are in the care of ▶ 4655 SALISBURY RD, SUITE 400 - JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256  
Telephone No. ▶ 904-352-2246 Fax No. ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- If the organization does not have an office or place of business in the United States, check this box
- If this is for a Group Return, enter the organization's four digit Group Exemption Number (GEN) \_\_\_\_\_. If this is for the whole group, check this box . If it is for part of the group, check this box  and attach a list with the names and TINs of all members the extension is for.

**1** I request an automatic 6-month extension of time until MAY 17, 2021, to file the exempt organization return for the organization named above. The extension is for the organization's return for:  
 ▶  calendar year \_\_\_\_\_ or  
 ▶  tax year beginning JUL 1, 2019, and ending JUN 30, 2020.

**2** If the tax year entered in line 1 is for less than 12 months, check reason:  Initial return  Final return  
 Change in accounting period

<b>3a</b> If this application is for Forms 990-BL, 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter the tentative tax, less any nonrefundable credits. See instructions.	<b>3a</b>	\$	0.
<b>b</b> If this application is for Forms 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter any refundable credits and estimated tax payments made. Include any prior year overpayment allowed as a credit.	<b>3b</b>	\$	0.
<b>c Balance due.</b> Subtract line 3b from line 3a. Include your payment with this form, if required, by using EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System). See instructions.	<b>3c</b>	\$	0.

**Caution:** If you are going to make an electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) with this Form 8868, see Form 8453-EO and Form 8879-EO for payment instructions.

## Criteria and Methodology used to Evaluate Scholarship Eligibility

**The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** is offered for low-income Florida students in grades K-12. Applications are processed in the order they are received, including all supporting documentation. Scholarships are awarded with a priority given to renewal families followed by new families with the greatest financial need.

Students who qualify receive financial assistance toward either private school tuition and fees or transportation to a public school that is not the public school the student is zoned to attend.

### **Eligibility/Priority Criteria:**

#### **Age Eligibility:**

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept. 1.

Students entering first grade must be 6 on or before Sept.1.

#### **Income Eligibility:**

- If the student is on the direct certification list
- If the student's household income level does not exceed 260 percent of the federal poverty level
- If the student or a member of the student's household receives SNAP, TANF or FDPIR
- If the student is currently placed or during the previous fiscal year was placed in foster care or out-of-home care
- As of July 1, 2020, based on HB 7067, if the student initially receives a scholarship based on the criteria above they remain eligible until they graduate from high school or turn 21 years old, whichever occurs first, regardless of their household income level. This is referred to as 'once-in/always-in.'

#### **Priority:**

Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to renewal families followed by new families with the greatest financial need.

Priority is as follows:

- Renewal families
- New applicants with a household income that is at or under 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who are in foster care or out-of-home care
- New applicants with a household income over 185 percent of the federal poverty level

### **Methodology for Evaluating Income Eligibility:**

#### **Direct Certification**

Direct certification is the process by which the SFO certifies children who are members of households receiving assistance under SNAP, based on information provided electronically by the State/ local agency administering those programs.

Eligibility is extended to all children in a household if one member has been directly certified as eligible under the Assistance Programs. These children are also considered directly certified.

Because of year-long duration of eligibility, households are not required to report changes in their categorical eligibility status.

- The Step Up For Students online application, at the time the applicant completes the application, submits a bundle of data to the SNAP database housed at the Department of Education, and returns a YES or NO if a student on the application is found to be in the SNAP database.
- Applications that are directly certified as receiving SNAP do not require any additional income validating documentation.

### **Receipt of SNAP, TANF or FDPIR**

Demonstration of any member of the household receiving one of these benefit services from the State of Florida.

Validating documentation is the most recent document from the SNAP, TANF or FDPIR agency showing the names of the household members, the address and the valid date of the benefit.

### **Once-In / Always-In**

A student who was found eligible and received a scholarship in the 2019-20 school year or after, having not graduated or turned 21 years-of-age is considered eligible for a scholarship.

### **Determination by income**

For the 2020-21 school year income eligibility was based on total gross household income, annualized by the frequency of receipt of the different sources of income. Income validation may include one or more of the documents listed as Income Validation Documents on the attached *Acceptable Document Listing* found at the end of this document.

Questions regarding different sources of income are listed on the application, and validating documentation varies depending on the income source. Please see the attached *Acceptable Document Listing*.

Members of the family unit are identified on the application along with the type and amount of income for each member.

Household income calculation are based on gross income. Gross income is defined as the full amount of pay before taxes or other deductions and includes:

- Gross wages or salary
- Tips
- Commissions
- Incentives, bonuses and/or overtime that is regular and recurring
- Holiday, vacation, PTO and/or sick pay

- Medical, dental and/or vision benefits paid directly to the employee
- Per diem pay
- Housing allowance

If the total annualized income for all adult members of the economic unit are less than or equal to the approved income cap guidelines for a household of that size (see Eligibility chart below), the family is considered to be income eligible. After being determined eligible, the student will be awarded a scholarship in the priority order outlined in statute.

### **Other sources of categorical income eligibility**

#### **Foster or out-of-home care**

A student who is/was placed at any time in foster care or out-of-home care during the current OR previous state fiscal year may be eligible.

A child in foster care is defined by the following:

“Foster care” means care provided a child in a foster family or boarding home, group home, agency boarding home, child care institution, or any combination thereof, as defined by s. 39.01(30).

A child in out-of-home care placement is defined by the following:

“Out-of-home” means a placement outside of the home of the parents or a parent, as defined by s. 39.01(55).

“Out-of-Home Care” means the placement of a child in licensed and non-licensed settings, arranged and supervised by the department or contracted service provider, outside of the home of the parent, as defined by DCF Rule: 65C-30.001 Definitions. (18).

These students may apply at any time during the school year and will receive a scholarship as long as funds are available. In order to apply after the regular application processing season closes applicants are directed to call our hotline at 877-735-7837 for assistance.

Acceptable validating documentation for these students is:

- a copy of the official state placement papers
- a copy of the current Foster Care license
- a copy of the court documents demonstrating placement of the child with a relative caregiver

Additionally, children who are indicated as part of the Migrant Education Program (MEP), who are under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, who are identified as homeless and residing with another household are considered to be categorically income eligible .

**Eligibility Chart:** If the household income is at or below the following criteria, the student may be eligible for a scholarship:

<b>FTC Scholarship Income Guidelines</b>	
<b>2020-2021 School Year</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual Maximum Gross Income for a 100% Scholarship</b>
1	\$ 33,176
2	\$ 44,824
3	\$ 56,472
4	\$ 68,120
5	\$ 79,768
6	\$ 91,416
7	\$ 103,064
8	\$ 114,712
9	\$ 126,360
10	\$ 138,008
11	\$ 149,656
12	\$ 161,304
13	\$ 172,952
Each additional member + \$11,648	

Students must have a birth date of **NO LATER THAN**  
September 1, 2015 (K5) or 2014 (1st) to be eligible.

Based on poverty guidelines published by the Department of Health & Human Services in National Registry on January 15, 2020

**Priority Chart:** If the household income of a new student is more than the income criteria on the chart below (185%) the student, while eligible, will be placed on a waiting list until all renewal families and new families whose income is below the amounts listed on this chart have received funding.

<b>FTC Scholarship Income Guidelines</b>	
<b>2020-2021 School Year</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual Maximum Gross Income for Priority Funding (185%)</b>
1	\$ 23,606
2	\$ 31,894
3	\$ 40,182
4	\$ 48,470
5	\$ 56,758
6	\$ 65,046
7	\$ 73,334
8	\$ 81,622
9	\$ 89,910
10	\$ 98,198
11	\$ 106,486
12	\$ 114,774
13	\$ 123,062
	Each additional member +\$8,288
<p>Students must have a birth date of <b>NO LATER THAN</b> September 1, 2015 (K5) or 2014 (1st) to be eligible.</p>	
<p>Based on guidelines published by the Department of Health &amp; Human Services in National Registry on January 15, 2020</p>	

# ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENT LISTING

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY VALIDATION DOCUMENTS

For Kindergarten:

Birth Certificate or passport showing that the student was at least five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>

For 1<sup>st</sup> grade:

Birth Certificate or passport showing that the student was at least six years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION VALIDATION DOCUMENTS

### ADULT MEMBERS

*(Current showing the name and address of the adult)*

One of the following:

Current SSI statement

Current VA statement

Current SNAP statement

Current TANF

Section 8/HUD lease

Mortgage / deed / residential lease

Pay stubs with address

Medical or health care benefit or reenrollment statement

Current homeowner or renter's insurance

Utility bill (water / electric; no more than 2 months old)

Medicaid documents

Health benefit statement

### MINORS (Current showing name and address of minor)

Current SSI statement

Current SNAP statement

Current TANF

Medicaid statement

Medical or health care benefit or reenrollment statement

Public school transcripts or report card with child's name and address listed

Official court custody documents showing child's name and custodial parent's name listed

Florida KidCare

Medical benefit statement

<b>INCOME VALIDATION DOCUMENTS</b>
#1025-SEP / Separation
#1055-CW / Cash Wages
Adoption Benefits Verification
Current Bank Statements
Current Child Support Documentation (myfloridacounty.com print out)
Current SNAP/TANF/Food and Distribution Program on Indian Reservation statement
Personal Income Documentation for a Child in Foster Care
Housing / Clothing Allowance Verification
IRS Form 1099 for SSI OR VA OR Pension ONLY
LES (Leave & Earning Statement)
Current Pay Stubs
Current Profit and Loss Statement (Self-Employment ONLY)
SSI Dependent Statement
SSI Statement
SSI Supplement Statement
Prior Year Tax Return (Self-Employment or appeal)
Tax Schedules (Self-Employment or appeal)
Unemployment Statement or Paystubs
VA Statement

## **Hope Scholarship Program**

In 2018, the Florida Legislature created the Hope Scholarship Program to give public school children in Florida relief from bullying and violence. The Hope Scholarship Program gives parents the opportunity to transfer their child to another K-12 public school with available capacity within the school district, receive a scholarship to transport the student to a public school in another school district, or to request a scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

Pursuant to s. 1002.40, F.S., a qualifying incident must have taken place at a public K-12 educational institution, any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity, riding on the school bus or waiting at the school bus stop. Qualifying incidents include battery; harassment; hazing; bullying; kidnapping; physical attack; robbery; sexual offenses, harassment, assault or battery; threat or intimidation; or fighting at school as defined by the Florida Department of Education in accordance with s. 1006.09(6).

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, once a parent or child submits a report of an incident, the school principal, or his/her designee, will provide a copy of the report to the parent and investigate the incident. Once the investigation is complete, or within 15 days after the incident was reported, whichever occurs first, the principal, or his/her designee, will notify the parent about the Hope Scholarship Program, and provide the Hope Scholarship Notification Form required for Step Up For Students to determine scholarship eligibility.

### **Criteria used to evaluate eligibility for the Hope Scholarship Program:**

Step Up For Students will require an application to be submitted by a parent, along with a valid Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) that has been provided by a public school principal, or his/her designee, after a qualifying incident is reported. Step Up For Students will verify that the Hope Notification Form submitted is complete, and that one of the qualifying incident types has been identified on the form.

### **Methodology used to evaluate eligibility for the Hope Scholarship:**

Parents must complete and submit the application directly to Step Up For Students via a link provided on the website at <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/hope/how-the-scholarship-works/>.

Pursuant to Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C., the application submitted by the parent must include, at a minimum, the student's name, student's Florida Education Identifier (FLEID), date of birth, gender, race, current public school district, current public school attended, grade level, parent's name, telephone number, mailing address and email address.

A completed Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) must be submitted with the application.

Step Up For Students will confirm that this information, and supporting documentation, has been submitted for each student, will process applications in the order they are received, and will award scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis, pending funding availability.

**Application Process Fees and Deadlines:**

There are no fees to apply, and there is no application deadline established at this time.

**Deadlines for Attendance Verification and Scholarship Payments:**

Attendance verification will take place quarterly prior to each scholarship payment.

## **Step Up For Students The Application Process, Deadlines and Associated Fees**

### **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

Families interested in receiving the Florida Tax Credit scholarship submit an online application in advance of the school year. Application start dates and deadlines are established each year.

In keeping with the guiding statute, renewing families receive priority and awards are granted on a first-come, first-served basis. The application process for renewing applicants begins prior to that for new families. For the 2020-21 school year, renewing families were able to begin applying in January 2020 and new families were able to begin applying in March 2020. Children in foster, out-of-home care and military families may apply at any time during the year.

**Prior to HB 7067 being signed into law, following the submission of an online application, families may have been required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate eligibility. After HB 7067 was signed into law, renewing families that met the income requirements and had a scholarship during the 2019-20 school year we no longer required to provide income documentation.**

Step Up For Students operates under the priority mandated in Florida statute 1002.395 using a rolling admissions-style process with deadlines established based on historical trends in application volumes and utilization rates, and also as funding becomes scarce. At the point where funding becomes scarce, any qualified applicants will be placed on a wait list. Wait List students can become awarded if and when previously awarded students decline the scholarship and/or additional funding becomes available. If funding becomes available after the application period has closed, applicants may request an incomplete application to be reopened for processing.

Scholarship awards have an expiration date that is determined each year, and is indicated on the award letter. Students must be enrolled in an eligible, participating school by the expiration date, or request an extension indicating intent to enroll at a later date. Awards not utilized by the expiration date will be expired. If funding is still available after an award is expired, a family may request the award be reinstated with a new expiration timeframe. All requests for reinstatement or extension are subject to the availability of funding. There is no application or appeal fee.

### **The Gardiner Scholarship**

Families interested in receiving the Gardiner Scholarship submit an online application once the season opens. Application start dates and deadlines are established each year, with renewals having priority, followed by students on the wait list from the prior year and new students.

Applications are generally available to renewing applicants in January and prior-year wait list and new applicants in March. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The application period is closed as funding become scarce.

Following submission of an online application, new families are required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate eligibility, including the student's age, diagnosis and residency in the state of Florida. Once a student is found eligible, parents access the conditional eligibility letter within the parent login area of the SUFS website. The conditional eligibility letter describes the process that the Department of Education (DOE) uses to fund students.

On a monthly basis, Step Up For Students provides The Department of Education with a list of conditionally eligible students. The Department of Education then cross-checks enrollment lists for the public-school system, the McKay scholarship, the Florida Tax Credit scholarship and VPK to ensure the student is not already being funded by one of these programs. Once the student passes the cross-check the Department of Education will send funds to Step Up For Students for those students that do not appear on any of the programs listed above.

The scholarship award is based on a matrix established in the following way; 1) for renewal students the funding calculation remains the same, and defaults to a matrix that assigns the student to a level three services, unless the student's parent has asked the school district for a revised matrix and it has been changed by the Florida Department of Education; 2) for new students that do not have a matrix level of services, funding defaults to 90% of the 253 level. If the student has a matrix level of services on file with the Florida Department of Education, due to public school enrollment, of 254 or 255, they will be funded at 90% of that matrix level, there are deadlines throughout the year which in turn impact funding amounts.

Funding is prorated based on the date the student is found eligible by the Scholarship Funding Organization. The application must be received on or before August 1 and found eligible on or before September 1st for 100% scholarship. Application must be received on or before October 1st and found eligible on or before November 1st in order to receive 75%. Application must be received on or before January 1st and found eligible on or before February 1st for 50%. Application must be received on or before March 1st and found eligible on or before April 1st for 25%.

If funding is exhausted qualified applicants are placed on a wait list. Wait-listed students can become awarded if and when previously awarded students decline the scholarship and/or additional funding becomes available. Wait-listed students have priority over new students in the following season.

There is no application fee for the Gardiner program.

Policy exceptions must follow the documented exception process.

## **Reading Scholarship Accounts Program**

Pursuant to s. 1002.411(2), F.S., contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, each student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior school year.

Eligible students who are classified as English Language Learners, and who are enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner students, will receive priority.

Students complete and submit an application directly to Step Up For Students on the website at [Readingapp.sufs.org](http://Readingapp.sufs.org).

Through the application, Step Up For Students collects the student name and demographic data, FLEID, grade level, and test score data required for the student to qualify under the eligibility criteria.

**NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the State of Florida waived all public school year-end testing for the 2019-20 school year. Due to this waiver, at the time of this submission, the eligibility criteria for the Reading Scholarship Accounts program for the 2020-21 school year had not been finalized.**

All student FLEIDs that match are sent on a monthly basis to the DOE for a cross-check with other scholarship programs, and then funded on a first-come, first-served basis, with English Language Learners on each monthly file receiving priority for funding.

There are no fees to apply. The application deadline is late spring unless available funding were to require an earlier deadline. The online application will remain open until allocated state funds have been expended.

Reading Scholarships are provided to public school students; therefore, the public-school district is responsible for handling the attendance records of students. Scholarship payments are made by Step Up For Students on a quarterly basis as reimbursement for qualifying expenditures.

## **Hope Scholarship**

Step Up For Students will require an application to be submitted by a parent, along with a valid Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) that has been provided by a public school principal, or his/her designee, after a qualifying incident is reported. Step Up For Students will verify that the Hope Notification Form submitted is complete, and that one of the qualifying incident types has been identified on the form.

Parents must complete and submit the application directly to Step Up For Students via a link provided on the website at <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/hope/how-the-scholarship-works/>.

Pursuant to Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C., the application submitted by the parent must include, at a minimum, the student's name, student's Florida Education Identifier (FLEID), date of birth, gender, race, current public school district, current public school attended, grade level, parent's name, telephone number, mailing address and email address.

A completed Hope Notification Form (IEPC-HS1) must be submitted with the application.

Step Up For Students will confirm that this information, and supporting documentation, has been submitted for each student, will process applications in the order they are received, and will award scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis, pending funding availability.

There are no fees to apply, and there is no application deadline established at this time.

### **Family Empowerment Scholarship**

Families interested in receiving the Family Empowerment scholarship submit an online application in advance of the school year. Application start dates and deadlines are established each year.

Following the submission of an online application, families may be required to submit supporting documentation to substantiate eligibility. Step Up For Students operates under the priority mandated in Florida statute 1002.394.

After review of the online application and supporting documentation, students found to be income eligible are presented to the Florida Department of Education for final eligibility related to having been in a Florida public school the year prior to application.

Students indicated as eligible by the Florida Department of Education are notified via email communication.