

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship



JANUARY 2019

OFFICE OF POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A LEARNING OPTION FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

How does it work? Companies receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions to non-profit scholarship organizations like Step Up For Students. Eligible students may choose between financial assistance toward private school tuition or with transportation costs to attend a public school in another district. Step Up awarded 98,830 scholarships, worth up to \$7,111 to economically disadvantaged K-12 students in 2018-19.

2018-19 FAST FACTS

99,453 scholarship students*

Average household income of \$25,749 or about 9.1 percent above the poverty level

68 percent black or Hispanic

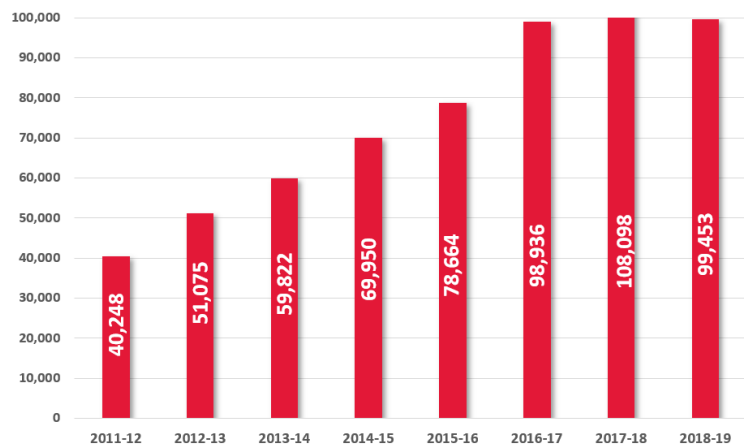
54 percent live in single-parent households

1,799 participating private schools

*AAA Scholarships included in the total



TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT



TESTING ACCOUNTABILITY:

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

THE SCHOLARSHIP AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPACT

For the 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR, the SCHOLARSHIP IS WORTH up to \$6,519 for grades K-5, \$6,815 for 6-8 and \$7,111 for 9-12; or between 88 and 96 percent of the legislature's operational appropriations for public schools.

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

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